

ILA/ United Nations University

Creating leaders for the future

By Aida Al Taweeel
Special to The Star

HUMANITY, COURAGE and Humility are the most important quality in a leader. His Majesty King Hussein told a gathering of 'young leaders' from 65 countries assembled in Amman. He added that "a true leader should always consider leaving a legacy behind him/her and set an example to others."

The King was speaking on the second week of a leadership program that is the first to be held in Jordan. The course, which lasts till 4 July, is first of its kind in the world, and is being held by the International Leadership Academy (ILA) whose headquarters is now in Amman.

The ILA is part of the United Nations University. The driving force behind the setting up of an International Leadership Academy was Prime Minister Abdel Salam Al Majali who says that "leadership is both a science and an art, a science because it consists of identifiable skill which can be developed and acquired, an art because it is also an *état d'esprit* given to articulating visions, taking risks and pursuing goals undeterred by obstacles."

The one-month program has been structured around four themes—leadership skills and attitudes, leadership on peace and security, youth leadership and international leadership. The idea is to induce leadership training at the very highest international level, ILA Director in

Amman Professor Adel Safy says.

These themes are organized around different workshops and subthemes. Participants—who include selected professional young men and women from all walks of life—on the program are examining issues which affect their performance in the workplace, in society, or some leadership position.

One of the participants, Kim Beng Phar from Malaysia says that what is unique about this conference is its "cultural diversity...it will also become more livelier and dynamic as more people try to transcend their different cultural and political background to deeply understand the meaning and practice of democratic leadership."

Thus there have been workshops on diversity of leadership, leadership among chaos, leadership without authority, leadership in attitudes, on peace and security, Europe and Middle East peace and the security of peace. There are topics on disarmament, regional integration and challenges to world peace.

This may certainly satisfy the aspirations of Erich Ogogo Opolot, a journalist from Uganda who says that "leadership in its broad context is a challenge we all face, not just in our official capacities but also in domestic situations."

What is interesting is that the participants are covering a multitude of cross-cultural topics, areas that are designed to establish commonalities and shared values.

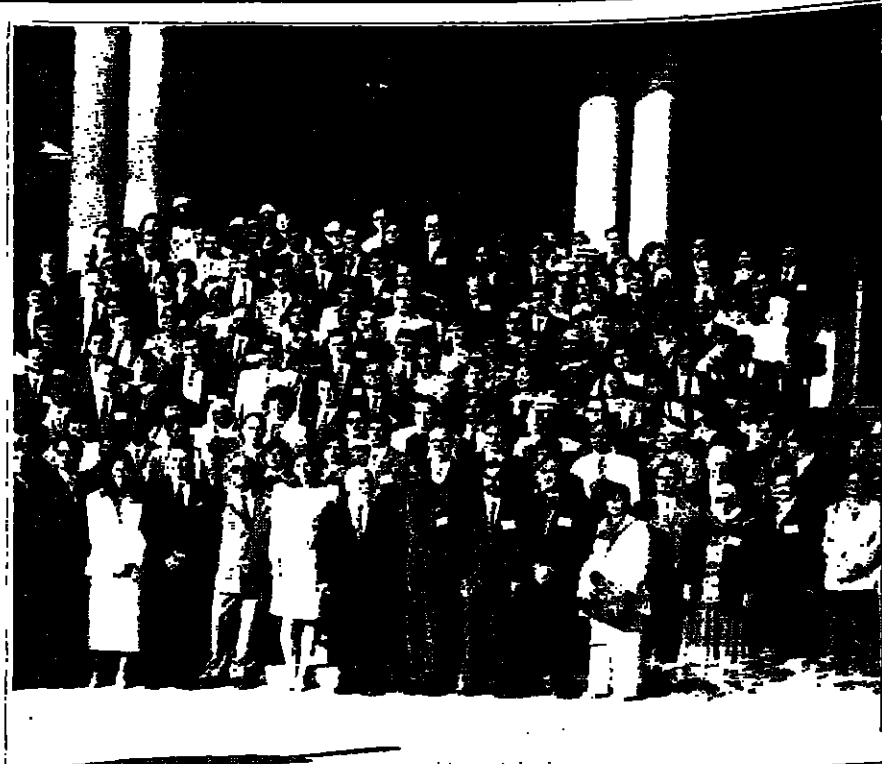
Thus, there is not only the East Asian experiences of leadership, but there is the issue of the challenges of science and technology from that part of the world. Participants also learn about the European experience.

In fact, cross-cultural experiences was the name of the game. Chester Morris, a public health researcher from at Columbia University in New York says he wanted to understand "leadership in cross-cultural interaction, the meaning of leadership in different cultures and how to improve the UN leadership, especially in developing countries."

A list of distinguished speakers are taking part in the program. On the local level, there is of course, King Hussein, followed by Dr Abdel Salam Al Majali, the Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament, Zeid Al Rifai, and Foreign Minister Fayez Al Tarawneh.

Others include international personalities who are or have been in positions of leadership such as Lord Ian Gilmore (Former Minister of Defence in Britain), Hisashi Owada, (Japanese Permanent Representative to the UN), Paul Findly (US Congress), Shimon Peres (Former Prime Minister of Israel), Jan Englund (Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in Norway), Hui Yongzhen (Chinese Deputy Minister of Science and Technology), and Sir David Steel (President of the Liberal International).

Opolot continues that "when I applied



for this program, I expected that this was opportunity to understand the perceptions of leadership from leaders and develop new attitudes towards leadership."

Justus Abonyo Nyangaya, a social development consultant from Kenya sees the issues in a different perspective. "Mistakes have been made in the past as the consequence of lack of collective vision and lack of leadership. From this program, we hope to redefine leadership roles that are once again compatible with the contemporary times."

Participants have clearly come to the program with fixed perceptions. As the organizers of the program suggest, they have not come here to learn more from

textbook theories but have come for practical advice from different international practitioners.

Commenting on the program, Leong Sze Hian from Singapore, and the honorary consul of Burkina Faso, says "I want to become a better leader to serve my community when I return. To learn from the experiences of the distinguished faculty of world leaders."

There is a lot more for the participants on the agenda this week. Learning to be good leaders is a difficult business but the organizers are determined that the next two-weeks will be crammed with activity so that the full potential of the program will be realized.

Regent asks donors to shoulder responsibility for refugees

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The Prince stressed that none of what Jordan is doing to refugees should be understood as preempting the duties of the UNRWA which has an invaluable role to play in educating and training Palestinians to administer their own future.

"Nor should the social productivity program [adopted by Jordan] be viewed as changing in any way the political status of the Palestinian refugees, in terms of their political rights of return and/or compensation," he said.

Saving Lebanon's trees

Continued from page 1

ing a staff of park rangers, safeguarding the indigenous trees and wildlife and reintroducing animal species that have disappeared from the area.

They want an adopt-a-cedar program. They want ecotourism—hikes, trails, scout camps, picnic areas. But first, they say, people have to be persuaded the environment is important.

"We are trying to bring people together. This was a nation torn apart," says Izzeddine. "We're trying to bring people together for conservation."

One unforeseen problem is due to the United States and its drug control efforts in the early 1970s. To try to stop the production of hashish in the Bekaa Valley, the US channeled money to the farmers—"all of whom bought power saws," says Izzeddine. "All you hear now is the buzzing of those saws. They are devastating our forests."

Lebanon's government tried in the 1960s to replant the cedar forests. Terraces were cut into the land; seedlings were planted. Some took, many did not. Everyone learned that the best way for a forest to grow is through natural growth—decade by

decade. One way to nudge nature along is to provide a protected environment for trees. Another way is to restrict hunters and animal grazing. When park rangers recently caught three poachers and their cache of eight trapped partridges, the arrests were prominently featured in the local newspaper. When park rangers saw a goat herd grazing in a protected area, they called out the Lebanese army. The herdsmen received a warning. Next time he'll be fined.

At one time, forests covered about 20 percent of Lebanon. The figure has dropped to less than five percent. Of the 18 areas where cedars grow, only three are protected by law. They contain one to 2 million cedars, along with junipers, maples and wild apple trees.

Alameddine, a burly man who drives a Land Rover and keeps a cellular phone on his hip, is helping manage the Shouf region. He learned about conservation on the family farm in southern Lebanon, one of the first privately protected parcels in Lebanon. He oversaw the farm operations until 1993 when fighting between an Islamic militia and Israeli soldiers came too close. Jumblatt, the conservation-

minded minister, then chose him to oversee the cedars project in the Shouf.

"This is a rare sight," Alameddine says of the cedar reserve behind the locked white gate, "and I have been all over the world."

Up here, 6,000 feet above the Mediterranean, the deep-rooted cedars stretch far and wide. Their scent fills the mountain air.

"Sometimes I will come and sleep at night under the cedars," Alameddine says from his perch on the ridge. "I can stay here a week without getting bored." You can listen for migrating birds. You can watch Persian squirrels run along a tree root.

He is standing alongside an especially formidable cedar. It has not one trunk, but four. Each spur is about as wide around as a backyard maple or oak.

"Maybe in a thousand years, there will be trees like that tree, if there is still mankind," Alameddine says. "Lebanon is a seed still emerging from the ground."

"One has to be very careful taking care of it."

LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

Dakamseh's trial arouses controversy

Continued from page 1

take oath saying that it is against their beliefs, but they "declared that they will tell the truth."

Others have later argued that this is another legal precedent. According to the law, witnesses must give a sworn testimony in Jordanian courts according to Mjalli.

Be that as it may, the session continued. The first to speak through an interpreter was forensic expert Hiss Yehudah who told the courts that he examined the bodies of the seven girls and stated that six of them were shot in the back.

Another witness Zeiv Kramer, the 45-year-old who was escorting the school girls at the time of the incident told the courts that when the shooting occurred he called for help, and "on the way, I saw a military truck coming in my direction." He continued that "the vehicle approached me and the driver swerved in my direction. I jumped but my foot was run over by the truck's wheel."

Another witness Zakaria Ozairi, who refused to take the oath said that he told three Jordanian soldiers to stop the soldier but they said "he was crazy. I told them he is crazy, but

he is killing us, and I later asked for bandages from Jordanian soldiers to rescue the injured girls but they refused and told me it was forbidden to do so and asked me to go away," the teacher said.

Israeli witnesses who were cross-examined by Mjalli about what the girls were wearing on the day of the incident all testified that the girls were "all religious and wore modest and conservative clothes which consisted of pants, skirts and blouses of different colors."

When arrested Dakamseh told investigators that the girls had provoked him while he was praying, and he shot them defending his military honor. Charges against Corp. Dakamseh include premeditated murder, attempting murder, using a weapon and disobeying orders. He could face the death penalty if found guilty on the four charges.

The five-men military tribunal is to hold another court session on Sunday to listen to 10 more Israeli witnesses.

After their testimony, His Majesty King Hussein hosted a dinner engagement for the Israeli witnesses.

Election fever starts amidst political muddle

Continued from page 1

reduced to 15 because two members were expelled for supporting the former government of Abdel Karim Al Kabari.

Even before the latest debate, the Muslim Brotherhood has been facing a more ideological debate between the pragmatists and traditionalists. Observers believe it is this debate that will create a large dent in their support.

Observers further argue that the movement is undergoing an "impairment" process in their view and perspective. They are those moderates for instance who are calling for the "Jordanization of the movement's agenda in Jordan." They want for instance

to be more "parochially" oriented and concentrate on local issues rather than on a regional perspective.

This is added to those who believe that they should join future governments and that they should not stay in the political wilderness. Holders of this view include Abdallah Al Akailah and Bassam Al Omoush.

In addition to this context, it is believed the creation of the NCP will capture a not inconsiderable number of votes.

On another development 10 opposition parties, excluding the IAF, are running for the elections under a united list. The list is expected to be announced next Monday.

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Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company Ltd. Tenders invitation for Prequalification and bidding

1. Tender No. 6/97: Upgrading of Amman L.P.G. Filling Station Project.
2. Tender No. 7/97: Upgrading of Saladin L.P.G. Filling Station Project
3. Tender No. 8/97: Zarka L.P.G. Filling Station No. 3 Project.

Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd., announces A/M tenders invitation for the supply, erection and commissioning of following projects:

1. Upgrading of Amman L.P.G. filling station project at Abu-Alanda site:
The project includes three mounded L.P.G. storage vessels of 8250 cubic metres total water capacity and two carousels for filling 12.5 Kgs L.P.G. cylinders with a capacity of not less than 1200 cylinders/hour each, L.P.G. pumps, compressors, L.P.G. semi-trailers unloading/loading facilities, trucks unloading and loading telescopic conveyors, extension of existing fire fighting and cooling system, piping system, all civil works and electrical works related to the installations.

2. Upgrading of Saladin L.P.G. filling station project at Irbid site:
The project includes two carousels for filling 12.5 Kgs L.P.G. cylinders with a capacity of not less than 1200 cylinders/hour each, L.P.G. pumps, compressors, additional L.P.G. semi-trailers unloading facilities, trucks unloading and loading telescopic conveyors, extension of existing fire fighting and cooling system, piping system, all civil works and electrical works related to the installations.

3. L.P.G. filling station No. 3 project at Zarka refinery site:
The project includes two carousels for filling 12.5 Kgs L.P.G. cylinders with a capacity of not less than 1200 cylinders/hour each, L.P.G. pump, aircompressors, trucks unloading and loading telescopic conveyors, extension of existing fire fighting and cooling system, piping system, all civil works and electrical works related to the installations.

The above mentioned works of every project are required on basis of "lump sum fixed price turn-key job".

Contractors who possess experience in the same field, and are qualified financially and technically, and who wish to participate in the above tenders for one or more of above mentioned projects, are invited to submit their prequalification documents, not later than 12.00 hrs of 13/7/1997 at the company's head office, noting that contractors who wish to participate in all of above projects must be at least qualified for "upgrading of Amman L.P.G. filling station project while contractors who wish to participate in any one or both of the other two projects must be qualified for any of them.

Prequalification documents should include the following:

1. Financial capability of the contractor (financial references to be provided).
2. Technical capability of the contractor, including details of experience and background of personnel, specifications of available equipment, etc.
3. Detailed documents showing similar projects executed by the contractor, full names and addresses of firms for whom such services were rendered, and details of projects including contract cost and completion periods.

Results of prequalification shall be announced and advised to participants as soon as they become available.

Eligible contractors may obtain tender documents from the company's head office at the first circle - Jabal Amman, against nonrefundable J.D. (200) per set for each project, not later than 12.30 hrs of 22/7/1997.

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JORDAN

W E E K



An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar



His Majesty King Hussein receives newly elected General Secretary of the Israeli Labor Party Ehud Barak at Royal Court Monday. They were joined by HRH Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Mubarak.

New Upper House speaker appointed

Senator Zeid Al Rifai has been appointed as the new Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament. He takes over from Ahmed Al Lawzi who submitted his resignation earlier this week because of ill-health. Mr Al Rifai is a veteran politician who has long been in government. He served as Prime Minister several times.

New office at Prime Ministry

A new inquiry office for journalists is to be set up at the Prime Ministry according to the Minister of State for Information Affairs. Dr Samir Mutaweh. Journalists can send in questions by fax to the Minister which he will then pass to the concerned authorities. Dr Mutaweh says answers to the inquiry should not take more than two hours at the latest. However, he points out that in addition to this service, he will always be available for questioning by the press.

Human Rights Watch condemns new press law

The New York-based Human Rights Watch charges that the government in this country has placed "unacceptable infringements" on the right to freedom of expression. The 14-page report, A Death Knell for Free Expression? The new amendments to the Press and Publications Law, finds that the contents ban in the new press law "clearly designed to impose a regime of self-censorship on the press and other publications, preventing them from carrying news and other information related to domestic and foreign affairs."

Tawjihi time

For some secondary school pupils it is the dreaded time of year. It's make or break time. Last week 72,387 students began their Tawjihi exams according to the new syllabus put forward by the Ministry of Education. A further 19,827 students are sitting their exams according to the old syllabus. The final results will be announced in July.

Parties finances

A report on political parties will soon be issued by the Ministry of Interior. The report will provide details of the financial situation of political parties in the light of their annual budgets which they must submit to the ministry in the first quarter of each year as specified by article 20 of the Political Parties Law. Reports in Ad Dustour suggest that the budgets of a number of political parties is between JD 700 and 1300.

Law for professional associations

A new draft law for professional association is being finalized by the government according to Al Arab Al Yomni. According to the paper one of the articles of the new law bans professional associations from political activity.



Palestinian President Yasser Arafat began a two-day visit to Jordan, Monday. He was received by His Majesty King Hussein and HRH Prince Hassan at the Royal Court. The leaders held a closed session to discuss the latest developments in the peace process. Later, Tuesday, Mr Arafat met Prime Minister Dr Abdel Salam Al Majali and other top Jordanian officials. At a press conference just before he left Amman, Mr Arafat described the talks he held with His Majesty as good. He praised efforts exerted by the King and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to remove obstacles facing the peace process. Mr Arafat said the coordination between Jordan and the Palestine National Authority are at the highest level.

Minister defends press law

AMMAN (Star)—The Minister of Information, Dr Samir Mutaweh bit hard against the opposition to his ministry's amendments to the Press and Publication Law. In a statement, published in the three daily newspapers, and distributed by the Ministry of Information, Mr Mutaweh, wanted to prove that the press body itself was behind the latest amendments to the press law.

Dr Mutaweh was unimpressed with the opponents to the amendments, describing them as a "minority" whose "loud voice" is "inundating public opinion" which he believes to be the "majority".

He criticized opponents for what he described as "narrow self-interests".

The new amendments to the 1993 Press and Publication Law was ratified three weeks ago, by His Majesty King Hussein, as the temporary Press and Publication Law, 1997. The new law sparked mass protest by the different groups, organizations who saw it as bringing the country back to the martial law era.

In several media and press debates, Dr Mutaweh defended the new law. He believes that the amendments protect human rights and ensure individual privacy.

In his statement, Dr Mutaweh began by citing verses from the Holy Quran and the teachings of Prophet Mohammad, that call against "sedition, vice, lies, offending people, crime, blackmail and discrimination."

He used Islamic Sharia to respond to a statement by Mr Abdel Majeed Thuneibat, the overseer of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Mr Thuneibat was reported to have asked Jordanians to write to human rights institutions of the Democratic Party (in USA) to exert pressure on the government in this country to abrogate the amendments to the law. However, Mr Thuneibat's idea was opposed by Lower House Speaker, Said Hayel Al Sroor. This forced Thuneibat to clarify in another statement, that what he meant was "to urge these institutions [of the Democratic Party] to pressure the American government not to restrain our [Jordanian] democracy" as the minister pointed out in his statement.

In his reply to Thuneibat, Dr Mutaweh said "Our democracy is something that concerns our people, it's representatives, it's the press, government and the institutions of our state."

He added that "Our decisions are part of our sovereignty and any view that expresses otherwise sheds doubt on our sovereignty and the independence of our decision."

He added that those who restrain "our democracy" are not Western or foreign parties, but "a group of us who persist in their attempts to transform our democracy...to anarchy that harms all."

Dr Mutaweh added that "these [elements] were warned time and time again but to no avail."

Accordingly, he believes that the government was forced to use its constitutional right to "protect the [democratic] march and put a limit to anarchy" without undermining the freedom whose limits end when [trespassing] on the freedom of others.

The New York-based Human Rights Watch accused the government of Jordan that it has placed "unacceptable infringements" on freedom of expression. In 14-page report (See Jordan Week), it added that the new amendments to the Press and Publications Law are "clearly designed to impose a regime of self-censorship on the press and other publications, preventing them from carrying news and other information related to domestic and foreign affairs."

Human Rights Watch called on the government to respect the International Declaration on Human Rights.

However, the Minister of Information, rejected these accusations, stating that the legislator [of the Human Rights Declaration] was not selective on the items of the convention, as the Human Rights Watch chose to be. "This declaration also guaranteed people's rights too and guaranteed that there be laws to protect their reputation, honor and private life. In addition to guaranteeing the freedom of expression, whose limits end when it becomes an infringement on others' rights."

Dr Mutaweh maintained that the press amendments comply with the provisions of the UN International Convention on Civil and Political Rights of 1966. Article 17 of the convention, he states "stressed the right for individuals to be protected by law from interference in their private lives and from campaigns that offend their honors and reputation."

The Minister described as "inaccurate" the Human Rights Watch claim that since the Jordan-Israel peace treaty

of 1994 sensitivities arose between the government and the press.

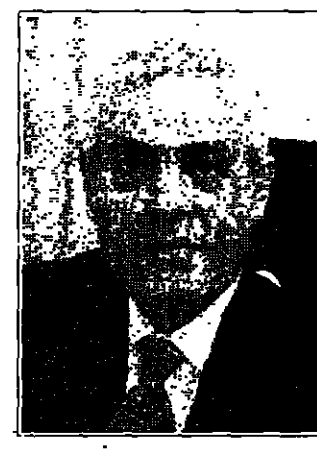
"No newspaper was taken to court because of tackling the peace issue," Dr Mutaweh said. Most of the court cases, he added, related to offending heads of Arab states, or causing harm to Jordan's relations with Arab countries. He said that a considerable number of these cases dealt with promoting "deviation" publishing false news and/or spreading rumors that cause confusion.

Dr Mutaweh said even the daily and weekly press carried news items that called for a change in the law. He quoted Al Rai, Ad Dustour, Al Arab Al Yomni, Al Sabel, considered as the mouthpiece of Islamists, Al Hudath, Al Urdun, Al Ahl, and other columnists.

President of the Press Association, Mr Saif Al Sharif said Dr Mutaweh's point of view is understood "because he is the spokesman of the government and he must find justifications for laws which is ratified by the state." He added that "we might not agree with the

majority of what he wrote but we respect his view."

Mr Sharif explained that the Press Association agreed that there were some violations against the public morals and the national unity by some newspapers. But he disagreed with Mutaweh's approach in taking these violations to lower the ceiling of freedoms in the country.



Mutaweh

New Palestinian generation feels legacy of Israeli rule

Continued from page 1

by the Israelis since 1967, according to Palestinian estimates, tens of thousands have been wounded by rubber bullets, and more than 1,300 Palestinians have died during run-ins with Israeli security forces in the territories since they began in 1989, according to the Israeli human-rights group B'Tselem.

Families have been scattered throughout the region and the world. A study several years ago by the Gaza Community Mental Health Clinic indicated that 90 percent of Palestinian children age 8 to 14 had been teargassed, either at home or at school or on the street. Yet in an indication of how intertwined the two societies have become, one out of four Palestinian workers crosses into Israel each day when the borders are open, according to United Nations figures. Probably 50 percent of Palestinian men speak fluent Hebrew. For better or worse, the Palestinian and Israeli economies have grown deeply interdependent.

"Life under the Israelis has been an experience that has transformed us," said Khaled, a 28-year-old unemployed man in the West Bank village of Surif.

Many Israelis defend the tough measures of the occupation as necessary, given the existence of such implacable enemies so close to home. No one wanted Israel to become the kind of country that metes out collective punishment and demolishes people's homes and shoots tear gas at children, they say, but it happened in an escalation of violence. "Neither their teaching nor their experience has ever accustomed the Jewish people to exult in conquest," said Army Chief of Staff Yitzhak Rabin two weeks after the Six Day War was concluded, and in the years that followed, the Israelis were to become even more familiar with what Hebrew University professor Yaron Ezrahi has called the many "moral ambiguities and ideological contradictions" that are "the realities of conquest."

Today, while negotiations continue fitfully over the future of the West Bank and Gaza, the occupation goes on. For Khaled, in Surif, a hilly town of 15,000 not far from the green line separating Israel from the West Bank, the past few months have been little different from years past. After the bombing of a Tel Aviv cafe that killed three Israelis in March, Israeli forces said they discovered a Hamas cell operating out of the village and issued orders that residents could not go outside of their houses even during the day and could not leave the village except under extraordinary circumstances. (Brief interludes were finally granted to permit shopping for food.) Palestinians called the two-month curfew "collective punishment" of the innocent, but Israelis said such tough measures were necessary to fight terrorism.

The result was severe dislocation and occasional tragedy. Many people lost their jobs. A pregnant woman lost her baby when she couldn't get to the hospital in time after going into labor. The Israelis demolished three houses belonging to the families of the suspected Hamas sympathizers, saying such demolitions, although hard on survivors, are among the most effective ways to deter future bombings.

Today, four years after the Oslo, Norway, peace process began, it has become difficult to gauge whether the occupation is actually ending. Under Prime Ministers Rabin and Shimon Peres, Israeli troops withdrew from most of Gaza and from the major cities of the West Bank. Since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was elected, the Israelis have also withdrawn from parts of Hebron. Most Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza now live for the first time under at least partial self-rule.

But the peace process is stalled and the occupation only half dismantled. Israel retains security control over 97 percent of the territory on the West Bank and civilian administrative control over 70 percent. Israeli jeeps still patrol the villages and olive fields, and Israeli checkpoints dot the roads. The Palestinian-controlled area is divided into small islands of non-contiguous territory. Border closeness continues, keeping tens of thousands of Palestinian workers from their jobs in Israel and barring Gaza students from their universities in the West Bank. Furthermore, more than 150,000 Jewish settlers still live in the territories.

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LURIE'S WORLD



Our Say...

Looking again at our educational system

IT'S SUMMER time and schools are off. That means over half the population in Jordan will be enjoying the long summer holiday. But how can we ensure that time-off is not time wasted. For the majority of school students, summer vacation is about doing and learning nothing. On the last day at school many students tend to tear off their text and note books and throw them in the streets. That's how negative many of them feel about education. One tends to ask if the problem is in the students or in the educational system itself.

We suggest that for this summer both the Ministry of Education and hundreds of thousands of students do some rethinking and a bit of work. For the ministry an in-depth revision of school curricula is needed. The pertinent question is what do we teach our children and how much benefit do they get out of the present educational system? The ministry decision makers should go back to school, study the textbooks and sit for exams, not in their capacity as officials, but as students themselves. They should place themselves in the students' shoes and see the world as they do. And then ask if our textbooks are up-to-date with what's going on in the world around us. They should look at the language of our textbooks, find the logic behind the way chapters are designed, how illustrations are used and how questions are asked at the end of each chapter. They should talk to teachers and see how they view these textbooks and, more importantly, how they teach them.

They should read exam questions, decide on their clarity and their purpose and then rate our current educational system.

To answer many of these questions, we should also ask ourselves what kind of young graduates do we want for our country as it gets closer to the 21st century? Are we creating independently-minded students who have inquisitive minds and have developed a sense of initiative, or are we just putting them into moulds and in effect making exact copies of each student. Are we learning about them any thing that could help us steer them into the right field of study once they complete their secondary learning, or is our system delivering thousands of achievers who have little idea about what the real world is like outside?

These questions cannot be answered in one summer vacation. These questions should be part of a self-evaluation process that evolves as the whole world does each and every day.

Meanwhile, what can we expect from the hundreds of thousands of students who are enjoying their summer holiday? Do we want them to sit at home, wake up late, watch TV all day long or loiter in the streets? Youth means energy and ambition and again the Ministry of Education along with other government bodies, devise ways to attract these young men and women to get involved in social activities; summer camps, athletics, scouting, serving in social centers, etc.

The private sector has a responsibility here as well. It must shoulder its responsibility by getting involved in such programs that will make the summer vacation a useful one for students where they can learn more about the real world. ■

6 June, 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon

An open-ended anniversary

By Carrie Nelle Moye
Star US correspondent

FIFTEEN YEARS ago on 6 June, a group of us flew out of Beirut International Airport on our way to a meeting in Istanbul. Although our taxis, quite literally, had dodged sporadic bombing en route to the airport, this was not unusual (most of the world knew of the months of continual air attacks; most Americans did not) and none of us realized this was the invasion which had been threatening for at least a year—the so-called "Peace for Galilee" invasion. The Israeli invasion of Lebanon, later proven to be with the full support of Ronald Reagan, and which resulted in the slaughter of hundreds of Palestinian refugees in the camps of Sabra and Shatila, and still later, the fading of Menachem Begin, as a force in Israel.

Fifteen years later, no one would have predicted that there would still be no real peace between Israel and the Palestinians. The subject seemingly has become one of boredom to the majority of people. Yet to those directly affected—Israeli, Palestinians, and others—it remains the number one focus of their lives.

Present Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, quickly forgot the lessons so painfully learned by Menachem Begin. And on this 15th anniversary, Israelis are in the streets protesting vehemently. Why?

Almost two decades after the Camp David accords, six years after the Middle East peace conference in Madrid, and several years after the signing of the Oslo, Washington, and Taba agreements, in a press conference following his summit meeting two weeks ago with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Sharm El Sheikh, Netanyahu pronounced, "This is a first step; a first step means there are more steps." All this, and just "a first step?" Netanyahu's diplomatic phraseology could not conceal the failure of this "last ditch—last chance" effort, as the meeting was widely described by Israeli, Arab, and international observers.

His body language, if not his words, revealed the deep disappointment and frustration of Mubarak. What was at stake in the Sharm El Sheikh meeting was not the final solution of the Middle East problem, nor even partial agreements on marginal problems. It was, simply stated, finding a modus to re-start Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on the entire complex issue of former agreements, especially those of Oslo.

The Egyptian summit was preceded by numerous other "preparatory," "exploratory," "fact-finding" meetings with participants including top US officials, Netanyahu, his head of state Ezra Weizmann, Arafat and team, Mubarak and team, Jordan's King Hussein and team, and European mediators. Negotiators shuffled between Washington, Amman, Aqaba, Cairo, Sharm El Sheikh, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and various European capitals.

If all these years and intensive efforts resulted just in one "first step," how much time will it take to finalize subsequent re-



About 300 Israeli women demonstrated in Jerusalem, Friday, against the continued occupation of the Palestinian territories and south Lebanon. The demonstration was held in remembrance of the 6-day War of June 1967

quired steps, resume negotiations and reach acceptable solutions just on implementing already signed, witnessed and ratified agreements?

And this speaks only of peaceful co-existence between Palestinians and Israelis, not the complex issues left in limbo including the status of Jerusalem, Israeli settlements in Occupied Territories, water rights, and Palestinian statehood. Presently, it is pointless to think of jump-starting the Israeli-Syrian-Lebanese talks to complete the cycle of peace agreements between Israel and all its neighbors—a prerequisite to establishing lasting peace in the Middle East.

This is a pessimistic prognosis. Time is a malignant force challenging peace while allowing radical philosophies on both sides to divide and multiply. The core problem now, as the non-implementation of the Camp David and Oslo Accords shows, lies in the interpretation of specifics, especially as concerns the Palestinian side of the equation. Talks have become a Byzantine debate on minute details, while the broader goals have been shelved. The people who suffer feel they have been forgotten and are losing faith in the entire concept of peace, in their leaders, in the (mainly US) peace brokers. The somber mood is contagious.

War in the Middle East is neither imminent nor feasible, but rumblings are increasing. Talk of war by Israelis and Arabs to break the stalemate may be dismissed as gesturing, but such talk is having its psychological effect on societies, the media, decision makers, and especially the military.

From all appearances, the US is letting matters drift, hoping that the concerned parties eventually will come to terms on their own. Clinton and team apparently have decided to discontinue Warren Christopher's strategy of high-level, di-

rect mediation in favor of a snail pace attitude. This approach would have some merit if the US truly took a neutral stance as an honest umpire. But US attitude clearly is tilted toward Israel, despite occasional murmurs criticizing certain Israeli actions, most notably the settlement policy.

Carter, Reagan, Bush, and Clinton, in varying degrees, all have criticized Israel's annexation policies and settlement activities, but the US has never really tried to dissuade Israel. Clinton's silence on Israeli breaches of international law, the Geneva Conventions, UN resolutions and signed accords is so pronounced even Israeli peace adherents shake their heads. US vetoes in the UN Security Council to prevent censuring Israeli breaches tell all. To remind Clinton of his obligations toward Middle East peace as co-signatory and guarantor, has been, as expressed by a Middle Eastern proverb, "as effective as grinding water."

But Clinton is not the United States; he is the elected leader. He owes it to his country and the world to exercise leadership, wisely and fairly, in advancing peace. If he is neither willing nor able to do so, the large segment of US society interested in Middle East peace must become more active. Not only is it imperative to establish harmony in the Holy Land but the US also must remain mindful of its determination to preserve significant interests that led Bush to muster an international coalition of 40 nations, and almost one million soldiers at a cost estimated at \$150 billion.

If the United States truly seeks peace, Clinton knows precisely how to achieve it. In ancient times, the children of Abraham, Jews and Arabs alike, had over 70 prophets. Today they need just one honest mediator. ■

Middle East Beat
by Khairi Janbek
Lebanon and terrorism

PERHAPS THE above title is a memory of the Lebanese civil war, especially now the country has returned to a state of normalcy. Perhaps the terrorism term, as far as Lebanon is concerned, is only used by the media that is hostile to the activities of Hizbollah in south Lebanon.

However, the phenomenon, by and large, was curtailed, or rather, we thought it had, that is until the recent news of the threats of Sheikh Toufaily, a leader of a splinter group from Hizbollah. He is starting a campaign of civil disobedience against the central government, from his base in the Bekaa valley.

Though there is opposition to the current Lebanese government, up till now, most of the constitutional problems, and social issues have been solved through negotiations between the concerned parties, albeit with at times, Syrian intervention. But this new threat coming from the Bekaa may prove a little difficult to challenge, since the campaign of disobedience seems to be supported by large shipments of arms to the area.

This clearly indicates that Sheikh Toufaily's threats may not be limited to passive resistance and non-cooperation, but might take the serious dimension of an armed conflict with the Lebanese government.

In all scenarios on Lebanon, when the Beka is mentioned, the first thing that comes to mind is the large contingent of Syrian troops stationed in the area. It may be plausible that the threatening policy of non-cooperation could have remained as a local issue, with the Syrian presence simply ignoring it until it suited them to interfere as the main arbiter of Lebanese politics. However, the fact that there are armed shipments heading for the area, means much more than a simple Syrian looking away policy, and if it is done under the Syrian gaze, then one would assume that the Lebanese leadership will have to shuffle in haste towards Damascus or Latakia.

Ironically, the date chosen for the insurrection, 4 July, coincides with the festivities of US Independence Day. We hope at least in Lebanon, the day will not be marked by live ammunition fireworks. Just at the time when the Pope had delivered his message of hope and coexistence, supported by one million Lebanese from all denominations, a conspiracy of revolt is being hatched now.

Still there is more to come. The representative of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in Lebanon, gave in a press conference his version of military operations by the Turkish army in northern Iraq and concluded with terrorist actions against Turkish as well as Israeli interests in a reference to the Turkish-Israeli strategic alliance.

It is hard to believe that Lebanon actually hosts the PKK let alone sponsors them, and our brethren the Syrians have continuously denied any involvement in PKK armed activities, despite the fact that Turkey has been accusing them of doing so for a long time. Yet, how can one justify the official presence of the spokesman of the PKK in Lebanon, threatening with terrorism in his press conference without, either the Syrian or Lebanese authorities giving any justification?

One must always caution against the policy of escalation, and it seems that there is a constant pressure of raising the stakes especially at a moment in our region when all parties seem to be looking for new alignments and seeking new allies in a dangerous formula of Middle Eastern transient politics.

It is not in the interest of Lebanon to be identified as a cauldron of terrorism, neither is it in Syria's interest to be known as the sponsor of terrorism. One does not seriously threaten anyone with the use of arms, by shooting ones own leg. ■

Algerian election yields multiparty parliament

By John Daniszewski

ALGIERS. Algeria—Pro-government forces last Friday took the largest share of Algeria's first multiparty parliament amid charges of fraud and irregularity. But two Islamist parties also gained one-fourth of the seats, giving a society wracked by violence a new breath of political pluralism.

"This is a big democratic day... a great day," declared one ebullient leader of the moderate Islamists, Mahfoud Nahad, even as he launched into a tirade about all the votes allegedly stolen from his party. All in all, the delayed replay of Algeria's catastrophic 1992 election was a mixed bag, political analysts and election observers said.

The 65 percent turnout was unimpressive by Algerian standards. Favoritism toward the pro-government camp almost certainly occurred, and parliament itself will enjoy only limited powers with the army and President Liamine Zeroul still firmly in control.

Yet the results gave Islamists and other government critics a voice in governing.

The achievement could blunt the appeal of violent groups who have waged a five-year war of terror against Algerian authorities since Islamists were stopped from taking power when the army canceled the country's first democratic election in 1992.

The distribution of seats was realistic enough to be accepted by a war-weary public, even if "you have to hold your nose a bit," predicted one international monitor with long experience in the country.

The voting was carried out in a war atmosphere. The overriding question was whether, in the long run, it would serve the

interests of peace.

Zeroul's government lost no time claiming it would. "This historic vote, which was not marred by any distortion, is an enormous progress and a great victory," an enthusiastic Interior Minister Mustapha Benmansour told journalists.

Zeroul's two-month-old National Democratic Rally got 155 seats, or 41 percent of the 380 places. Known by its French acronym RND, the party was backed by the country's sizable administrative bureaucracy and military, and picked up votes from Algerians supportive of Zeroul's policy of eradicating "terrorism" while cautiously introducing market reforms.

Opposition parties said vote manipulation was a major factor in its success, and some foreign election observers were inclined to agree. Although the monitors in the country have not yet issued their final reports, they said privately that there were at least strong grounds to suspect the size of the RND's victory margin.

One observer said he saw ballot boxes from army posts where turnout was reported at 100 percent, and all the votes were for the RND. In addition, he said, the ballots had been folded uniformly and stacked perfectly inside the box.

In second place was Nahad's Movement for a Peaceful Society, a moderate Islamic party formerly known as Hamas. It won 69 seats, or 18 percent of the total. Along with another relatively moderate, Islamic-oriented party, Nanda, which had 34 seats, the Islamists will control 103 seats, or



27 percent of the parliament.

The moderate Islamists charged that the final tally was rigged against them but indicated that they will take their seats in parliament anyway. Nahad said he will press for greater dialogue, an apparent reference to the banning of the Islamic Salvation Front, which would have won in 1992 and whose leaders remain in prison.

"To stop the bloodshed, you need dialogue and agreement and efficient discussions among all the political classes," he said. Although the Islamist parties turned in a respectable showing, other opposition parties were far more disappointed and strident in their complaints of vote fraud.

The authority is carrying out these practices to ensure its longevity, even to the detriment of the country," said Slim Saadi, head of the Rally for Culture and Democracy, a party opposed to Islamic militants, which had been expected to do better than the 19 seats it obtained.

Charges of irregularities centered on two categories: "special voting"—the voting

of soldiers, police, firemen and other state workers who voted separately because of public duties, and "itinerant voting"—in which ballot boxes were moved to sparsely settled areas.

Opposition parties said in both cases they could not properly monitor the ballot boxes. In some rural areas, poll watchers from various parties complained of being driven away from voting stations, even at gunpoint, and of ballot boxes being opened or removed for long periods.

What was unclear was whether the level of vote fraud was so egregious that it would lead to a popular outburst or renewed support for armed groups who have been opposed to the government since 1992.

University of Algiers political scientist Mohammed Henna said he thought the election could be a step toward the end of violence, as long as the parliament has a semblance of pluralism. ■

LA Times-Washington Post News Service



Two Palestinian youths making the victory sign in a makeshift cage in Gaza. They are calling for the freeing of political prisoners held by Israel and Palestine National Authority, Saturday.

The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

An independent political, economic and cultural weekly, published every Thursday in Amman by Media Services International (Info-Media).

Editorial & Advertising: Telephones 652-380, 645-380, Fax 648-298, P.O. Box 9313, Postal Code 11191 Amman - Jordan, email: Star@arabia.com

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The Star is serviced by LA Times-Washington Post News Service, Cartoonists International (Lurie cartoons), PANOS, The WorldPaper, Editors Press Service, STILLS and by correspondents in the United States and South Asia.

Member of The International Advertising Association

Subscriptions: (annual) Jordan JD 20, Arab countries US\$ 100, W. Europe US\$ 200, USA & Canada US\$ 200.

Letters to the editor: Will be edited for brevity, must contain name and address of sender.

Business scene

■ The foreign share of capital in Jordanian banks is 55 percent, according to a report from Arab Bank. A financial study by the Arab Bank, which is the largest bank in Jordan, has revealed that the Arab Bank's capital is 41 percent foreign, while the National Bank of Jordan's capital is 41 percent foreign. The study also revealed that the Arab Bank's assets are 41 percent foreign, while the National Bank's assets are 41 percent foreign. The study also revealed that the Arab Bank's liabilities are 41 percent foreign, while the National Bank's liabilities are 41 percent foreign.

■ The Jordanian government has announced that it will increase the value-added tax (VAT) from 5 percent to 7 percent. The government has announced that it will increase the value-added tax (VAT) from 5 percent to 7 percent. The government has announced that it will increase the value-added tax (VAT) from 5 percent to 7 percent. The government has announced that it will increase the value-added tax (VAT) from 5 percent to 7 percent.

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Foreign Exchange

	Buy JD	Sell JD
US \$	0.7080	0.7100
£	1.1510	1.1560
DM	0.4124	0.4145
SFr	0.4901	0.4923
FRF	0.1227	0.1233
YEN (100)	0.5624	0.5655
DEL	0.3667	0.3688
LIT (100)	0.0419	0.0421

International Trade Fair
International Fair
National

SATURDAY
International Trade Fair
International Fair
National

General Price Pointer
Trade Volume
Stock Volume
Highest Traded Stocks
Kurdish Bank

كنا مع اننا

Business scene

■ The foreign share of capital in Jordanian companies is 33%, most of it from Arab countries.

A financial study suggested that Arab investments in the banking sector reached 48%, 57% of which is in the Arab Bank, 61% in the Arab Banking Corporation, 41% in the Housing Bank, 19% in the Jordan National Bank, 21% in the Arab Jordan Investment, 5% in the Industrial Development Bank, and 12% in the Cairo Amman Bank.

In the industrial sector the foreign stake totaled 22%, Arab investments accounted for 10% in the Tobacco and Cigarettes Co., 3.6% in the Cement Factories, 41% in the Arab Potash and 23% in the Arab Center for Pharmaceutical Industries, 19% in the Jordan Phosphate Mines, and 27% in the Paper and Cardboard Factories.

■ Dar Al Dawa Pharmaceutical Co., hopes to increase its exports to the Iraqi market this year by 55%, in the light of the implementation of the oil for food deal and approved Jordanian contracts to export pharmaceuticals to Iraq.

Its exports to Algeria and Saudi Arabia are also witnessing an encouraging rise. The company's sales last year totaled JD 17.03 million, mostly for Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

The shareholders rights of the JD 6 million company were JD 20 million by the end of last year.

■ Jordan vegetable exports saw a sharp hike in 1996 compared with 1995, estimated at 28,000 tons.

Fruit exports rose by about 11,000 tons. United Arab Emirates imported about 137,000 tons, followed by Bahrain 51,000 tons, Lebanon 50,000 tons, Qatar 42,000 tons and Kuwait 41,000 tons.

■ Jordanian imports of vegetables last year were 83,000 tons, recording a rise of 28,000 tons over 1995. These imports mainly come from Lebanon, Palestine, Indonesia, Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

■ The general assembly of the Jordanian-Syrian Free Zone Co. held a meeting in Damascus to discuss means of enhancing co-operation in investment and ways of creating industrial joint ventures in the two countries. The two sides also stressed the need to increase exports between the two countries.

Foreign Exchange

Wednesday, 11 June

	Buy JD	Sell JD
US \$	0.7080	0.7100
£	1.1510	1.1568
DM	0.4124	0.4145
SP	0.4801	0.4825
YRF	0.1227	0.1233
YEN (100)	0.5624	0.5652
DEU	0.3667	0.3685
LIT (100)	0.0419	0.0421

Giving tourism a helping hand

By Iham Sadeq
Star Staff Writer

TOURISM IN Jordan is one of the most important sources of hard currency. Official statistics suggest that tourism generated \$700 million in 1996.

To boost its performance, the Tourism Ministry wants to improve touristic infrastructure and provide better facilities. It aims to bypass the over 1 million tourists that came to Jordan last year. Despite the setbacks in the peace process that led to the noticeable decline in the number of tourists coming to this country, ministry officials are putting a brave face. They stress that the potential is great.

The development of the tourism sector in Jordan also depends on the performance of the travel and tourism agencies who, through co-operation with the Ministry of Tourism, play an important role in promoting Jordan worldwide.

Mr Lam'i Haddadin, president of the Jordan Society of Tourist and Travel Agents (JSTTA) told *The Star* that "as a society fully co-operate with the Ministry to improve the performance of the touristic sector, and enhance its competence and productivity for the welfare of the economy."

Haddadin stresses that it is

necessary to end competition from airlines companies to the travel and tourism agencies. Competition within these agencies must be stopped. This can be achieved through the cancellation of the discount these agencies take as a commission. This step aims at increasing income and financial revenues of these agents and support the state treasury.

Jordan is an attractive tourist centre that links different parts of the world. Haddadin says that his society plays an important role in promoting Jordan and in making people of various countries aware of this region.

Despite their role however, travel agencies have been in for a shock. By law they must now raise their capital to JD 50,000. The government says that the 400 agencies in the country are far too high and their number must be reduced. The government's new philosophy is aimed to strengthen the private sector and make sure that only the strong stays in the market. A number of travel agencies have already closed.

This law came into effect last year, but it is only now that travel agencies are beginning to feel the pinch.

Aiming to reduce the burden of implementing the law on some agencies, Haddadin said "I personally helped agencies that were unable to

adjust themselves in accordance with the law, by contributing to the capital and ensuring bank deposits" according to the law this deposit was raised from JD 5000 to JD 25,000 for ticketing agencies and JD 25,000 for tour agencies. This means that those agencies who run travel and tourism offices should now deposit JD 50,000 in the bank. Today, out of 400 travel agencies, there are 267 licensed, while some have closed down.

Hani Suleiman, director of Trans Continents Tours told *The Star* that it is true this law brings tough conditions, but he shares Haddadin's view that the only way to reach a settlement is to continue a constructive dialogue with the Ministry of Tourism.

The two also called on the government to stop giving licences for new travel and tourism agencies, at least for the next five years.

Haddadin pointed to the importance of the national conference on tourism which was due to be held between 13-15, June. Its main objec-



Haddadin

ive is to study all difficulties and obstacles facing the touristic sector in Jordan, to find solutions and make recommendations.

Regionally, Haddadin said that "we are facing competition from international markets, especially from our neighbors."

UNDP officially launches 1997 Human Development Report

AMMAN—At exactly the same time that the 1997 Human Development Report is made public to the world in Washington, DC and Bonn, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will release the report's findings in Amman today, Thursday 12 June at an official ceremony under the patronage of Prime Minister, Dr Abdul Salam Al Majali.

Best known for its assessment of living standards in some 175 countries, the annually published Human Development Reports are commissioned by UNDP and written by an independent team of scholars and experts from around the world.

Since it was first published in 1990, the Human Development Report has underscored the importance of people-centered development with a strong emphasis on equitable and sustainable economic growth.

Israeli travel agencies are benefiting a great deal. They are offering one-day free Petra visits on their package tours.

Haddadin wondered how much such packages benefit the local tourism industry.

"The opening of the southern crossing point was a political decision, and we highly respect and appreciate such a resolution. But the Jordanian negotiator representing the touristic sector should have given priority to the interest of the tourist industry and the national economy", Haddadin said.

The JSTTA president suggested that the arrival and exit fees from the southern crossing point should be increased: \$100 for arrival and exit fees relating to one-day visits; \$70 for arrival and exit fees relating to two days, one night visit; \$60 for arrival and exit fees relating to three days, two nights visits.

Haddadin urged the government to study these suggestions or propose its own to put an end to the one-day tourism which does not have any positive impact on the economy.

One of the highlights of the report is the Human Development Index (HDI), which ranks countries every year according to three variables—life expectancy, adult literacy and per capita income.

Jordan's ranking over the last seven years has fluctuated between a low of 98 and a high of 73, reflecting, to some extent, its vulnerability to the prevailing economic and political climate. Since 1993, however, it has been slowly climbing up the ranks with a higher HDI value, much in part to the progress it has achieved in education and health.

Last year, Canada topped the HDI ranks, followed by the United States, Japan, Netherlands and Norway. The Arab country with the highest human development was Bahrain with a ranking of 39, followed by United Arab Emirates at 42, Qatar at 50, and Kuwait at 51.

JOSBA seeks to further Jordan-Swiss relations

THE JORDANIAN-SWISS Association (JOSBA) is a new registered association with the Ministry of Economy. JOSBA has a number of objectives:

■ Promote economic, commercial, cultural and technical co-operation between Jordan and Switzerland.

■ Encourage economic, commercial, scientific and touristic activities between Jordan and Switzerland.

■ The founders of the association held their first meeting and elected the Board members last week. These are: Muhammad Ibrahim (President), Ernst Liniger (Vice President), Mr. Khaym Abu Zeid (Treasurer), Jabara Khoury (Secretary), Van der Linden (member), Anwar Obaidat (member), Christian Gartinann (member).

JOSBA welcomes all persons concerned with above objectives to join the association as active members, supporting members or honorary members. For more details, contact the president of JOSBA at: 06-651366, 635355, Fax: 06-651355, Mobile: 079-27345.

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Cuban peso at stake

A dollar for your thoughts

By Pascal Fletcher

IN ONE of Cuba's more secretive Afro-Cuban religions, known as Regla de Congo, Mayombe or Palo Monte, priests would use gunpowder to prepare a spell.

They placed little piles of this powder, known as fula, over ritual drawings and lit them with a cigar. If all or most of the piles caught, it signalled the charm would work. The ignited fula was "opening the way" for the spell.

In today's Cuba the word fula has acquired a new meaning. It is used in Cuban street slang to describe money. Not just any money. Hard currency. Specifically, the United States dollar.

The invasion of the US dollar, with its superior buying power to the Cuban peso, is fomenting a new kind of revolution in Cuba, dividing its society into those who have dollars, a growing group, and those who have not, the majority of peso-earning state workers. This threatens one of the tenets of the Cuban Revolution, once trumpeted by its

leaders: that of social justice and equality.

Like the ritual gunpowder, the US dollar "opens the way" to the communist-ruled island: to hard-currency shops and tourist installations, to consumer goods and services unavailable in Cuban pesos. In short, to a richer life style.

The decision to allow Cubans to use hard currency, announced by Fidel Castro in summer 1993, was perhaps the most influential of all the economic reforms introduced in Cuba during the past five years.

Combined with an influx of foreign businessmen and tourists, and with the slow emergence of a self-employed sector, the unrestricted circulation of the US dollar is changing the face of Cuban society.

It has shattered the carefully cultivated egalitarianism of Cuba's society during the Soviet bloc years, which was built on a uniform national food rationing system and subsidised prices. Privileged groups, mostly linked to the hierarchy of political power, did exist, but the basic relationship between wages, income and prices was the same

for the majority of citizens.

Castro stresses the economic necessity of the 1993 measure, but has often lamented its impact. "It hurt, it really hurt. We were aware of the inequalities and privileges it created. But we had to do it," he says.

After years of lambasting Cuba's Yankee imperialist arch-enemy, the US, he has had to accept the Yankee dollar as a de facto national currency circulating alongside the Cuban peso.

Castro says the move was unavoidable to "save the revolution". In other words, to help the island and its one-party political system survive a deep economic recession triggered by the collapse of the Soviet bloc and made worse by tightened US trade and a financial embargo.

The government needed (and still needs) to lay its hands on every dollar it could find to pay for essential oil and food imports. The use of hard currency by Cubans had been illegal but a huge dollar black market flourished, inaccessible to the government. The solution? Legalise it and get the dollars out from under Cubans' mattresses and into the state coffers.

The authorities set up a network of hard currency shops selling basic consumer goods such as cooking oil, clothes and the subsidised peso stores, these now extend across the island.

The value of the dollar has fallen from the high black market rate of 150 Cuban pesos reached in mid-1994, but it still packs a more powerful buying punch than the national currency. It is at present worth about 22 pesos. This differential remains disruptive and has turned work categories and their respective incomes topsy-turvy.

Jose, who is 28, used to work as a doorman at a state discotheque, earning 120 pesos (about \$6 at the current rate) a month.

Now he washes foreigners' cars outside an office block in Havana. With luck, he can earn \$5 or more in tips during one week, which gives him a monthly income of around \$20, a princely sum by Cuban standards.

He swapped his disco doorman's clothes for the tatty, grime-stained shorts and T-shirt he uses while swabbing down cars. But he has no regrets. "Who can live off 120 pesos a month? At least this way I'm getting somewhere," he says.

Pedro, a former trained electrician with a wife and two children, is another who has made the switch from the peso-earning state sector to dollar entrepreneurship. He left his 265 peso-a-month electrician's job and now bakes guayaba and coconut pies which he sells at \$1.50 each at offices and work centres. "At least this way I'm making a decent living," he says. He is saving up to join family members in Spain.

Through hard currency tips from foreign customers, waiters working in tourist hotels and restaurants can multiply many times the monthly peso wage of teachers and doctors, the pride of Cuban society.

A wealthy class, millionaires by Cuban standards, is emerging. Their hard currency

income can derive from a variety of non-state sources: remittances sent by family members, income from renting homes to foreigners or fees paid to artists and entertainers.

Alarmed by these income differences and cases of corruption involving hard currency, the authorities seem to be trying to restore a measure of socialist-style equality.

Lending teeth to an ideological campaign against "mercantilist psychology" and "consumerism", the government has borrowed a redistribution mechanism long-established in capitalist societies: taxation. Income tax has been reintroduced after a 30-year absence, and the authorities now tax all hard currency income except remittances sent from abroad. Peso salaries remain untaxed.

Reaction to the taxes, which the government says it uses for the country's free health and education system, is grumble most often heard.

Nevertheless, the "dollarisation" of the Cuban economy seems to be increasing. In cities like Havana, where tourism and foreign business is high, 50 per cent or more of the population are reported to have access to hard currency.

Sales of goods and services in hard currency rose 18 per cent to \$627m (£384.6m) in 1996. Since 1995, Cubans have been able to hold hard currency bank accounts, and government foreign exchanges will change dollars into pesos and pesos into convertible currency. One-third of Cuba's workforce now receives some kind of hard currency incentive on top of a peso salary.

Cuba's leaders say the circulation of the Yankee dollar is a necessary evil which will not last forever. To salvage national pride, the government has issued a parallel convertible peso at a one-to-one rate with the dollar. The next step will be to reduce Cuba's three currencies US dollar, convertible peso, national peso to the two pesos.

The final goal is a single, internationally convertible Cuban peso, but this will require the full recovery of the Cuban economy and an end to the US financial and economic embargo of the island.

Financial Times Syndication

Business Chronicle

Big could be beautiful

THE ECONOMIC game today as interpreted by the government is capital concentration and streamlining of enterprises. In today's world, the phrase big is beautiful, is being implemented on the local level. Larger companies are better equipped to deal with the distortions and bottlenecks in the economy, it is argued. For the government, the idea is to induce greater economic performance.

It has become a prerequisite for banks, insurance and tourism companies to make changes that are seen as necessary to boost performance, improve services and cope with worldwide challenges and competition.

In the banking sector for instance, the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) asked all authorized banks to raise their capital to JD 20 million, by the end of this year. Some banks, encouraged by incentives from the CBJ to merge, have concluded mergers—the Business Bank and Jordan National Bank, is one. If the 26 operating banks in Jordan are reduced by even a handful, then it will create stronger financial institutions that can be run and be managed successfully.

The CBJ's recommendations to raise banks capital may be positive, but can the case be true with the insurance sector?

In 1986, total insurance companies in the country was 33, but because of continuous losses, the government wanted to reduce their losses by forcing them to merge.

Encouraged by incentives, the number of insurance companies has been lowered to 17 in 1994. This was the result of a law prohibiting the establishment of new insurance companies. Also, this law now calls on these firms to raise their capital to JD 2 million before the coming November.

Some were strong enough to increase their capital while others merged. However, there are still nine companies, unable to adjust themselves, and the question now what will be their fate if they fail to either merge or raise their capital before November. Last year, six insurance companies suffered losses especially in the compulsory car insurance branch. In 1995, these losses totaled JD 4.5 million.

Today it is the turn of travel and tourism offices who are now obliged to increase their capital to JD 50,000. They could face closure if they don't put up. (See main story)

Lyonnaise Des Eaux opens regional office in Amman

THE FRENCH water group, Lyonnaise Des Eaux, has opened a regional office for the Middle East and North Africa in Amman. Its regional director is Jubran Owayshek.

The company has chosen Jordan as its headquarters because of its strategic location to the rest of the Arab countries.

Lyonnaise Des Eaux is not new to the Arab world. It has offices in Beirut, Gaza, Amman and Tunis. The company has just signed a contract to distribute water, electricity and the treatment of public water in Casablanca, a city with a population.

Lyonnaise Des Eaux has been in operation for more than a century. It is involved with building infrastructure and providing services to different municipalities. Today, more than 40 percent of its work is carried outside France.



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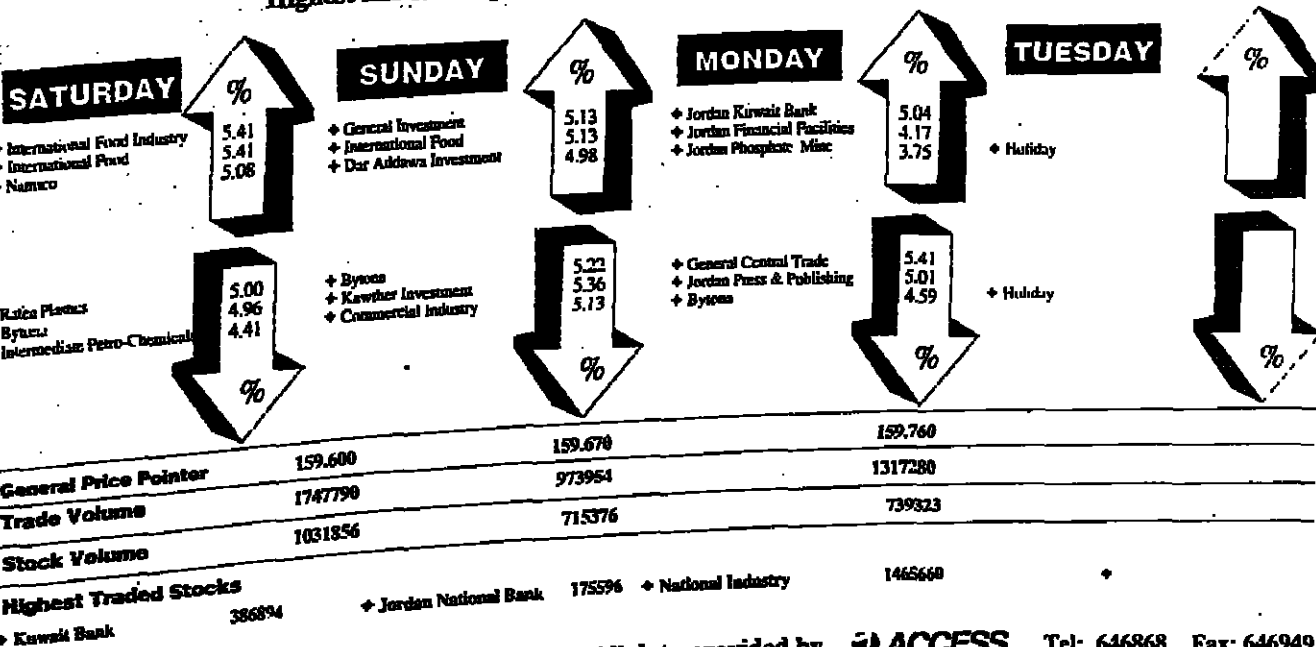
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The Star
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MARKET WATCH

7-9 June

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market



All data provided by ACCESS Tel: 646868 Fax: 646949



Their Royal Highnesses opens Taibyet village

THEIR ROYAL Highnesses Prince Faisal Bin Al Hussein and Princess Alia Al Faisal opened the Taibyet Village in Al Wihdat, East Amman, last week.

The Taibyet village is a unique tourist site, modeled on ancient Islamic and Arab architecture. The site has extensive entertainment facilities and revives the traditional social atmosphere, particularly of Ramadan. Al Fitr and Al Adha Eids and other celebrations that mark national and religious occasions.

The visitor can enjoy shopping at the "Souk" which displays traditional handicrafts. ■



Renovated North Theater promises to lighten festival

By Anca de Maio
Special to Star

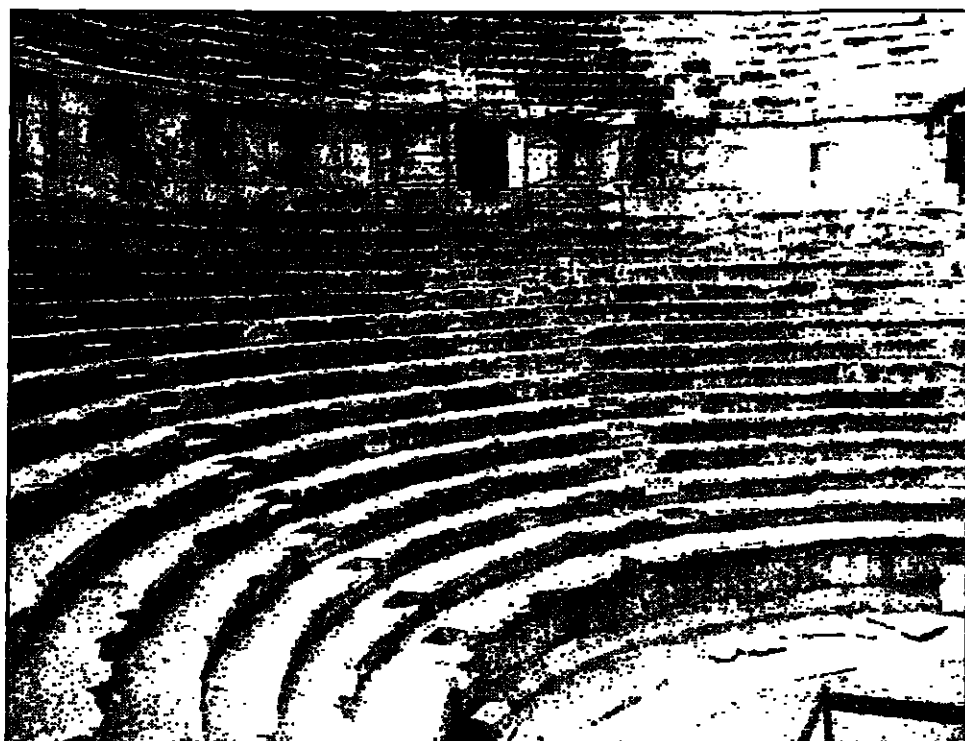
The echo of music and dramatic declamations in Jerash's North Theater long faded away with the decline of the Roman Empire. However, 17 centuries later, the newly renovated theatre is ready to take its place on the occasion of the 16th Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts. On 24 July, the stage that once vibrated under the feet of those still mysterious performers inspired and protected by Apollo (the Roman deity of music and art), will be reanimated by the exuberant talent of young dancers and musicians from Europe, South and North America and the Middle East.

This great cultural event has been made possible by the remarkable restoration work carried out by a 30-member team headed by Abdel Majeed Majali, a restoration expert at the Antiquities Dept., and director of the location of the Jerash Festival since its inauguration in 1981.

"The first festivals were held only in the South Theatre. Other places like the Forum, Artemis Steps, the Tetrapiyons and Garcia gradually started to host the ever increasing events of the festival," Mr Majali said. "Now that the North Theatre is to be opened next month, we shall next concentrate on the Hippodrome, the arena near Hadrian's Gate that the Romans used for horse shows," he explained.

Built in 162 AD as an auditorium, the North Theatre was expanded into an amphitheatre a century later. This was by the addition of a stage and an eight-step upper level. The facade was framed by four big Corinthian columns (and two corners), the sign of the importance of the place, the expert pointed out.

The Amphitheater was completely neglected during the austere Byzantine period. Partly dismantled into construction stones for churches and cathedrals, it was turned into a water container in the long



Renovated North Theater

run. The North Theatre collapsed under the vigorous shakes of an earthquake in 747 AD. Buried seven meters underground by the wind, rain and time, only the top of its upper level was visible in 1982, when the Antiquities Dept., in collaboration with American, British and Australian experts started excavation on the site.

In 1986 Mr Majali's team made up of technicians, constructors, potters and experts in Jerash archeology started the restoration of the theatre faithfully respecting the sketches of the original site. With a

four-year interruption from 1991 to 1995, the restoration work underwent several slow and fast stages. The lego-like assembling process included cleaning the stones, assigning them numbers, sticking the broken pieces together, replacing the missing original stones with similar new ones, rebuilding the completely broken stage, reconstructing the stairs that lead to the second level and restoring the 10 alabaster circles designed for the orchestra on the ground arena beneath the stage.

Four wonderful bas-reliefs have been dis-

covered on the symmetrical walls of the two lateral entries, each projecting from a square surface the silhouette of an instrument player. On the right side corner, the (savagely beheaded!) figure of Apollo playing the harp and the profile of another character playing the flute can be seen, while the left side is adorned by the elegant figures of a drummer and a flutist.

Moreover several Latin inscription could be noticed on the background of the stage under the niches that once used to be covered with glass mosaic. A beautifully carved inscription on an unadorned stone testifies to the participation of the Armenian legion of the Roman army in the building of the theatre.

The last touching-up to be done before the opening of the festival concerns the floor of the backstage and the cloakrooms. Two wooden cloakrooms are to be added to the two original ones only for the 20 days of the festival. Temporarily, two sound and light control rooms will be installed as well.

Solid and safe, the North Theatre is in a way the most completed place of the whole complex. "The entrances are very well done, and once closed, there is no other way of getting inside the theatre," Mr Majali pointed out. "The access to the second floor by back stairs, as originally conceived, will avoid crowding at the lateral entries," he added.

The restored North Theatre, ready to accommodate almost 2000 people, is a great archeological achievement that will contribute to the reinforcement of the public awareness of the history of the place as well as of the importance of the Jerash festival. "The archeology of Jerash has become more and more appreciated by both tourists and Jordanians. As a matter of fact, many local families and their children have got the habit of coming for a walk on the site whenever they have some spare time," Mr Majali pointed out. ■

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



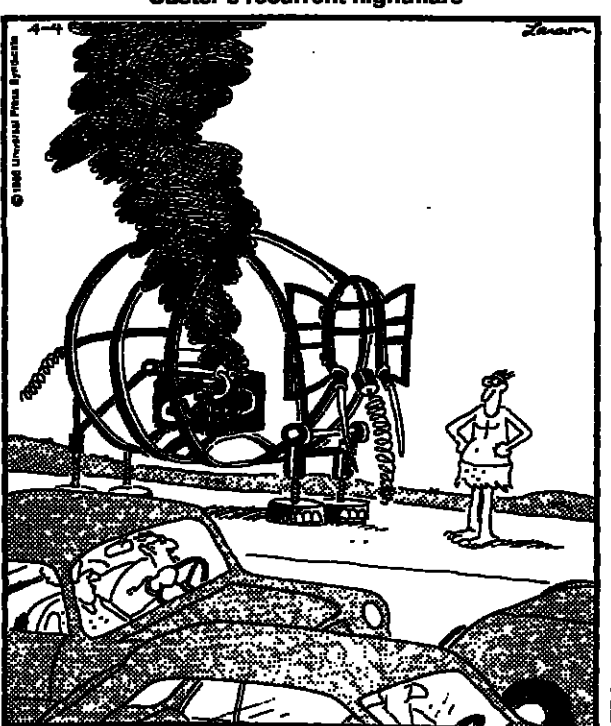
In the corridors of Clowngress



"Hey! It's Frank and Cindy!... Haven't seen you folks for a while."



Custer's recurrent nightmare



Tantor burns up on I-90

AGENDA

Exhibitions

■ Artworks by nine contemporary Iraqi artists, entitled "Ecology & Environment in the Iraqi Art", at the Royal Society of Fine Arts, Thursday 12 June, at 6:00 pm. The exhibition runs till 12 July.

■ Photograph exhibition entitled "Children of the Planet Earth" at Haya Culture Centre ends today, Thursday 12 June.

■ The artworks of the Paris-based, Moroccan artist Najla Mahadji at Darat al Funun ends today, Thursday 12 June.

■ The artworks of the Jordanian artist Farouk Lambaz continues at Darat al Funun till 19 June.

■ The artworks of the

French artist Guy Ferrer continues at the French Cultural Center till 19 June.

■ Spring Exhibition of Plastic Art '97 at Greater Amman Municipality runs till 30 June.

■ The artworks of Farouk Lambaz continues at Darat al Funun till 19 June.

■ Artists' book exhibition entitled "One of a Kind" continues at the American Centre till 30 June.

■ Canas y Barro - part 2 (Spanish) at the Cervantes Institute, Thursday 12 June at 8:30 pm.

■ Stage Coach at The American Center, Thursday 12 June at 5:00 pm.

China still trying to

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driven to

By Hu Zhong
In spite of direct attacks by the U.S. leaders in recent days, the memory of the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989 continues to haunt the Chinese leadership.

Recently, with the new leadership which is widely regarded as a step to the communist leadership, the late Deng Xiaoping's reform and opening-up policy might not have been as firm and as unshakable as they have been in the past.

Reforms, which have been going on since 1978, have been slowed down in the night after June 4, 1989. They are further slowed down by the wide-scale collapse of the Soviet Union, which has led to a loss of confidence in the Chinese leadership. The Chinese leaders are now in a state of confusion and are trying to find a way out of the current situation.

Deng Xiaoping, the leader of the reform and opening-up policy, has been criticized for his role in the Tiananmen Square protests. Some people believe that he was responsible for the crackdown on the students and workers.

The current situation in China is one of uncertainty. The Chinese leadership is trying to find a way to move forward, but they are facing many challenges.

Some people believe that the Chinese leadership is trying to put fresh energy into economic reform, and the corresponding policy of encouraging foreign contacts was an important step in this direction.

Bypassing empty and useless ideological arguments about capitalism and socialism, Deng encouraged officials to take even bolder measures to develop the economy. The line he took was:

Two who were there p

Now t almost

Song Lifang and Jintan. Who both lived through the events of the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests and later came to the U.S. Jintan, a leader of the Chinese democracy movement at the time, helped the students after serving more than four years in jail. Song Lifang, a student at the time, was confined to his mother's bed for his part in the events. WorldPaper's Omar Hassan interviewed the two men in Boston.

WORLD PAPER: Were the students or trouble?

Jintan: Some radical students set up a new democratic country. I think most hoped for peaceful reform of the political system.

Actually, in 1989 the situation was very good because the reformers controlled all the power—economically,

Horizon charts course with optimism

THE MEMBERS of the Board of Management of Horizon Advertising & Communications Network met in Athens earlier this month. The Agency, which has offices in Athens, Amman, Beirut, Cairo, Dubai, Jeddah and Kuwait, had chosen "Planning for the 21st century" as the theme of this year's meeting.

Presiding over the two-day conference, Rafic Saadeh, chairman, said "Although we hold 'meeting-of-the-mind' workshops at least once or twice a year this one turned out to be particularly stimulating. We made a frank and critical assessment of the existing realities and



defined our strategies for the future. The next millennium will pose more complex marketing communication challenges. And we should be ready for

them well in time."

The Agency has already set in motion an ambitious high technology drive by establishing interactive communication links between its network offices and the international partner agencies.

This makes it possible to share vital information on media plans, research, product data etc., as well as exchange creative concepts, guidelines and artworks. The on-line access

enhances accuracy and efficiency while reducing communication time and expense.

Says Rafic Saadeh, "To excel in creative and other agency disciplines, we need to increasingly work as trans-agency teams, utilizing all our talents and resources across offices and countries. A network sans borders, that's what the 21st century demands." ■



Isabelle Adjani at the Cannes festival

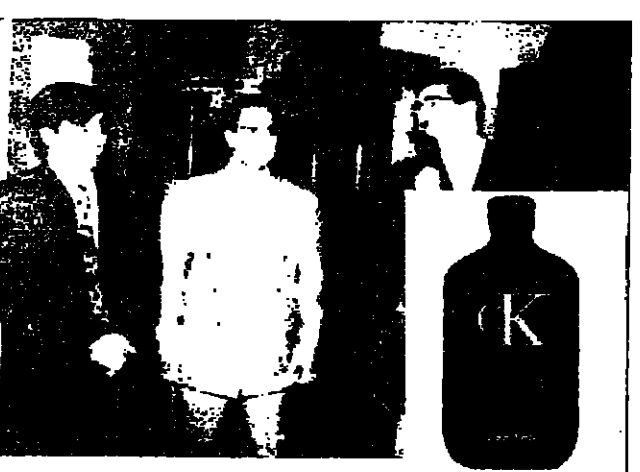
CKbe is now at Abu Shakra's outlets

IT BEGAN with CK ONE which gave us the freedom to define ourselves by the things that matter to us. We became ageless, raceless and genderless. CK believes in the same world where in individuality and the freedom to express it are essential.

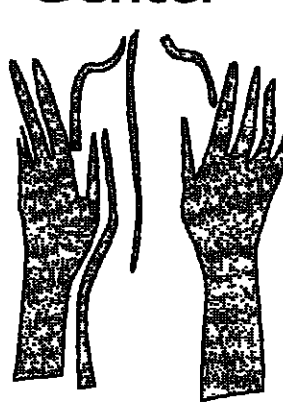
Mr Raed Abu Shakra presented the new fragrance attended by Mr Joseph Fraiha and Ms Mabelle Abinader from Calvin Klein and Mr Rami Abu Shakra.

CKbe fragrance is about who you are, it is about the freedom to express your individuality, it is about the freedom to be yourself. CKbe fragrance is a unique fresh tonic musk with an intimate scent that invites people closer.

CKbe scent is as distinct as each individual who wears it. The fragrance is now available at all Abu Shakra's showrooms and gift shops. ■



Valentina Body Massage Center



Valentina Body Massage

Dear Sir/Madam:

Valentina Body Massage Center is happy to announce its summer opening. Starting June 10 1997, we invite you to come and experience the skill and expertise of our massage therapists.

Massage therapy is a proven medical practice by which tension on the body and mind that could be caused from long hours of driving or sitting at your office be remedied.

Massage therapy is the safest and quickest possible way to relief you of the daily pressures that could be formed from living in a hectic and stressful atmosphere. Our skilled and educated staff will ensure that you get the best and the most up-to-date treatment available including neck and head massages to ensure maximum satisfaction.

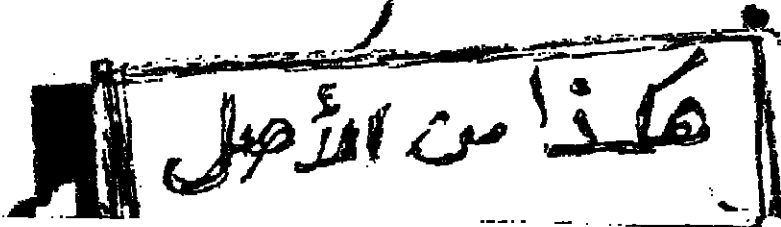
We invite you to come and visit to get an idea about our center and the different services we offer. Our prices are the most competitive around including special rates for the upcoming summer months.

Valentina Body Massage hopes to see you soon,

Thank You and have a nice day!

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JUNE 1997
A special section offering
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global issues prepared for
The Star

THE WORLD PAPER

PRINTED IN FIVE LANGUAGES
ON FIVE CONTINENTS



APPEARING IN: AMMAN • BANGKOK • BEIJING • BOGOTA • BOMBAY • BOSTON • CAIRO • CARACAS • HONG KONG • JAKARTA • KARACHI • KUALA LUMPUR • LIMA • MANILA • MEXICO CITY • MOSCOW • PANAMA CITY • QUITO • SAN JOSE • TAIPEI • TOKYO

China still trying to banish ghosts while saying they don't exist

Tiananmen takes on a life of its own

► Communist leaders driven to capitalism

By Wu Zhong

IN SPITE OF GREAT EFFORTS by China's leaders to erase any public memory of the bloody crackdown on student demonstrators at Tiananmen Square, the events of June 4, 1989 continue to color all aspects of policy-making in the Middle Kingdom.

Ironically, without the crackdown—which is widely regarded as a victory for the communist hardliners—the late Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms and open-door policy might not have gone as far, and as smoothly, as they have during the past eight years.

Reform, which had been slowing prior to 1989, almost ground to a halt right after June 4 as the new leadership hesitated in its aftermath. They were further shell-shocked by the sudden collapse of the Soviet empire which followed soon after. But the two events proved to be eye-openers for the Chinese leadership. This was especially true of patriarch Deng, who realized quickly enough that without efforts to keep improving people's lives, China's communist leadership might not be able to sustain its grip on power.

Deng, who launched the bold economic reforms a decade earlier to preserve communist rule, concluded that the only way to achieve his goal was to move forward even more relentlessly. The occasion he chose to put fresh impetus into economic reform, and the corresponding policy of encouraging foreign contacts, was an inspection trip to the south of China, during which he warned officials that the nation faced a dead-end road without further reform and opening up.

Bypassing empty and useless ideological arguments about capitalism and socialism, Deng encouraged officials to take even bolder measures to develop the economy. The line he took with the

officials meant, in essence, "anything goes." Western sanctions to protest the June 4 crackdown also forced China to open its door wider.

To break such sanctions and lure badly needed capital, China had to open more of its markets—such as real estate, retail and banking—to foreign investors. It also required opening a bigger share of the domestic consumer market to products of overseas-invested enterprises. Post-1989, radical reforms and "opening up" measures aimed at building a capitalist-style economy met with little resistance from the hardliners.

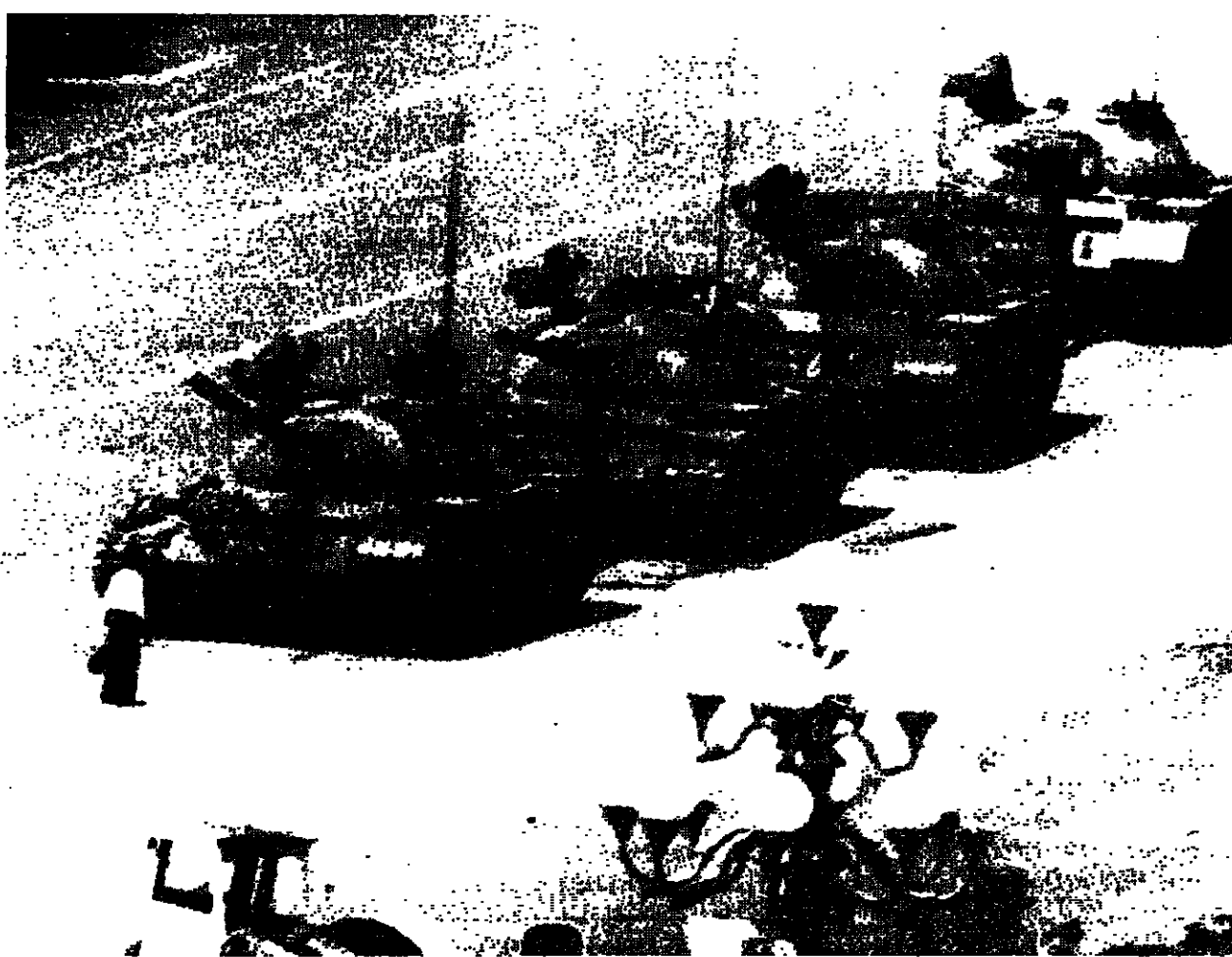
Without the sharp lessons of the June 4 demonstrations and the collapse of the Soviet empire, this would not have happened. Consider the sad fate of two former Communist Party general secretaries Hu Yaobang and Zhao Ziyang. Both were undermined and pulled down in succession by the conservatives precisely because they had open-minded thinking and undertook radical reform measures.

Since the Tiananmen crackdown, however, economic restructuring has been pushed so far that today no one can—or dares to—reverse the course. The people are never going to give up what they have gained. In political and

social life, too, June 4, 1989 has had a marked effect on policy-making. The post-Deng leadership has stepped up the fight against official corruption, one of the key demands of the 1989 demonstrators. Although achievements have been far from satisfactory, at least something is being done.

The current Communist party boss, Jiang Zemin, described the anti-graft drive as "a struggle which is concerned with the life or death of the party." In the legal field, too, the effects of June 4 are evident. China has revised the criminal code, replacing the controversial

Stone breaks scissors. But scissors cut paper and paper wraps stone in the time-honored game of bluff, and China's leaders are learning that these rules apply on a bigger scale. They broke the student movement that occupied Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989, but ever since then, the public relations 'paper' those students cut out during those heady three months have been wrapped around the Communist Party's stone fist



"counter-revolutionary crime" with "subversion" and giving it a more specific definition.

China has also introduced a new law on national defense. This stipulates that the armed forces—the Chinese People's Liberation Army—will not normally be mobilized to handle domestic riots—though it is not totally banned.

Needless to say, progress in these fields is rather slow—and falls far short of expectations—when compared with economic growth. But it is enough to show that June 4 has not been forgot-

ten. The tragedy has left an imprint, and will continue to influence the direction of China's development in spite of different interpretations by different parties.

So the blood shed on the night of June 3-4, 1989 in Beijing has in a sense stimulated, directly or indirectly, all the changes in China over the past years—for better or worse. Many of these were not even anticipated by the students at Tiananmen, who for the most part were demanding the state respect some vague ideals.

This course of action, however unwillingly it was taken, has helped the Chinese authorities to stabilize the society, and to silence dissenting voices without arousing great opposition at home. The changes have also provided the leadership in Beijing with the foundations of their increasingly hard-line stance on human rights, a stance taken in defiance of Western criticism and accusations. ☐

WU ZHONG is *The Hong Kong Standard's* SENIOR WRITER ON CHINA.

► Courage, to what end?

By Crocker Snow Jr.

IT'S BEING BILLED AS the 20th century's single biggest fireworks display. And people in Hong Kong, China and Macau have the front row seats. What's on the tip of everyone's tongue is the June 30 changeover of Hong Kong from a British crown colony to full Chinese sovereignty.

But what sits heavy on everyone's mind is the equally

fiery—and more fatal—episode that took place not in Hong Kong, but in Beijing precisely two thousand, nine hundred and forty-four days earlier.

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) action on June 4, 1989, when it rooted out the Student Democracy movement that was squatting in Beijing's central Tiananmen Square, remains a symbol of China's mailed fist raised above the spin control that accompanies its resumption of control over Hong Kong. It's a symbol with a life of its own, an event like the ones at Sharpeville, South Africa in 1960, the Vietnamese village of Mai Lai in 1968 and the 1983 massacre at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Lebanon; events leavened and livened by the telling, ones whose associations and consequences are far more important than what actually happened.

For all its vast grandeur, with the Great Hall of the People on catty-corner from the first outer gate of the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square itself remains stained by metaphorical if not actual blood. One cannot stroll the square today without reflecting on the masses of tents, the bustling, intense students and busy international TV crews that decamped there. These, along with the reclusive Chinese leaders and hidden fax machines, were the lead actors and key props for what happened in the middle of the night eight years ago.

Brief visits to Hong Kong, Macau and Beijing last month, on the eve of the June 30 changeover, underscored how enduring and indelible "Tiananmen" is to the different mainland Chinese constituencies. Old friends in Hong Kong cite it but want to forget it. Friends in Beijing dismiss it. Acquaintances in Macau, the Portuguese colony just over the horizon from Hong Kong that is scheduled to return to Chinese sovereignty two years from now, don't want to be reminded.

Just how much the Chinese authorities will clamp down on individual freedoms, and whether press freedoms and the right of assembly will be curtailed, is more immediate and more central for Hong Kong's six million residents than how much the Chinese student democracy movement suffered—or still suffers today.

"Sure, as we look ahead Tiananmen hangs over us, a cloud, a dark reminder," remarked one middle aged Hong Kong professional. "I don't worry for myself so much. I'm practical. But I worry for some of Hong Kong's inexperienced and impressionable students who are accustomed to protest about little things, almost like the rites of spring."

Today, residents of Beijing will discuss Tiananmen a little more openly than ever before. For many it's already part of contemporary history. "The students then wanted too much too soon," observed one new acquaintance who has made a lucrative business out of a university student travel agency. "They embarrassed too many government officials. They forgot their

The current Communist party boss, Jiang Zemin, described the anti-graft drive as "a struggle which is concerned with the life or death of the party"

Two who were there point to economic reform

'Now the private sector's treasure is almost equal to that owned by the state'

Song Lifang and Juntao Wang both lived through the events in Tiananmen Square and later came to the US. Juntao, already a 13-year veteran of the Chinese democracy movement at the time, helped the students organize and was exiled to the US after serving more than four years in jail. Song Lifang, a student at the time, was confined to his native village for his part in the events. The *WorldPaper's* Omar Younes interviewed the two men in Boston last month.

WORLD PAPER: Were the students in Tiananmen Square looking for a solution or trouble?

JUNTAO: Some radical students believed we needed blood and sacrifice to set up a new, democratic country. But I think most hoped for peaceful reform of the political system.

Actually, in 1989 the situation was very good because the reformers controlled all the power—economic, so-

cial, and political. After 1989, the hard-line leaders cleaned out all the reformers because they thought they were dangerous for Chinese Communist. Some intellectuals think that the Chinese lost the best opportunity to reform their political system peacefully in this century.

When the Chinese government decided to crack down on the students, most people thought: "This is a criminal act committed by the mainland government." Then, in 1992 Deng decided to give the Chinese people more oppor-

tunity to develop their economic interests. The Chinese people began to change their minds [about Tiananmen]

and began to blame the student leaders. Now they thought the students just wanted to be famous; that they didn't really struggle for democracy.

I don't agree with these opinions. At that time I knew all the student leaders. I think they were immature and not deliberate about their strategy. They were very young. Maybe they were excited by the media attention—but they didn't know the huge

fame they had in the Western world and those that came here were very surprised.

WP: Some say the demands were mainly for changes in the university and judicial systems, not human rights or democracy?

JUNTAO: In general, the demands focused on inflation and corruption. People complained that the government could not solve the problem of inflation, and that they could not influence the policies and the government's behavior (corruption). For intellectuals, teachers, journalist the focus was very clear—political reform.

SONG: As far as I know, all the demands made by the students were directly related to general rights.

They did urge the government to take actions to stop the corruption among the government officials and give more freedom to the people—specifically freedom of the press. The more freedom people have to say what

THE STUDENTS IN TIANANMEN DEMANDED:

- That the government negotiate with them, a step it was unwilling to take because of the implications for freedom of speech and assembly.
- That the government respect the constitution, which grants citizens rights—such as due process and petitioning their rulers—that in practice can't be exercised.
- That the government clamp down on corruption, especially the "dual price" system that allowed state-run enterprises and officials access to commodities that they resold for huge profits.
- That the National People's Congress, a legislative body, formulate national policy instead of the Communist Party.

they were very young. Maybe they were excited by the media attention—but they didn't know the huge

they want to say the less possible it is for the government to do some dirty dealings behind the scene.

WP: Was there organization among the students?

JUNTAO: There were three groups of students. The Western world focused on only one. The first group did not represent the student community because they organized by themselves, without elections. Students favored the second—negotiation—group that was [elected].

The third group, I think about 300 students, went to Tiananmen square May 13 for a hunger strike. As a result, the square became the focal point of the upheaval. Although the smallest group, their behavior attracted huge attention from the whole country. So they became the "leaders"—but nobody actually elected them.

WP: Were there real negotiations?

SONG: The Chinese Communists

► PRIVATE TREASURE PAGE 2

► TO WHAT END? PAGE 2

A GHOST IN THE MACHINE

PRIVATE TREASURE

Continued from page 1

believe there is nothing wrong with killing people if they compete with you for power. Unlike the western countries, they have never negotiated with internal rebels. As a person brought up in China from the time of elementary school I was told it is not wrong for you to kill people because you want to grip political power. Remember late Chairman Mao's famous saying that, "political power comes out of the barrel of a gun."

WP: What if Tiananmen happened today?

JUNTAO: I think the government would be overthrown.

SONG: The government is more cautious than before. They have tightened their control on the people. They will rule out every possibility that could spark such a movement.

That is especially true after the death of Deng because the new leader Jiang just inherited power and he is not sure people will accept him or not. In order to grasp power, he has to be stronger and control the dissidents. So Jiang has to control the mass by hard-line tactics. He is a naive leader. He doesn't know what to do in terms of leading the country. He is selfish. He wants power. That's all he cares about.

But in terms of making a decision to use military force and ordering them to kill, the decision cannot be made because nobody has as much power as Deng did. If the movement built up to a certain scale it would be more tough for them to deal with. And, in this sense, it's unlikely to end up in tragedy.

WP: Have things improved now since 1989?

JUNTAO: The situation is better. Much better. It's the reason why the Chinese people began changing their minds about the students. Just yesterday I met some intellectuals who also took part in the demonstration and received punishment from the government. They said: "Okay, June 4th was

a tragedy, but if those students controlled the country the situation would be worse!"

SONG: There have been some changes because of the economic reforms, not because the government wanted to give more freedom to the people. Maybe you could not own business before and now you can—that doesn't mean people can vote to choose their leader.

Students do have more flexibility to

er aspects of the Chinese Communist Party. And if we achieved something significant, it is this. People are aware of the basic human rights they have been deprived, something they weren't able to recognize until then.

WP: Is it true that, while there have been no official reforms since 1989, a great deal of political change has occurred?

JUNTAO: Yes, actually there are a lot of political changes. I think there are a

In the future there will be political reform because the young generation leaders have the new idea about the politics.

WP: What about the criticism that some dissidents are trying to cash in on—and exaggerating—their involvement?

JUNTAO: I think they aren't intentionally giving the wrong story. There were many people involved and when you are young it's natural that you think you were very important or more im-

TO WHAT END?

Continued from page 1

history, even Mao's lessons about patience and perseverance about a journey of a thousand miles...

A Chinese official whom this diarist has known over the years had another slant. "What happened, happened. But it wasn't as violent, it wasn't as bloody as the world was led to believe. The fiction became much bigger than the fact."

The man, who was more sympathetic than not with the student democracy movement, has a point.

The conventional wisdom is that the PLA, unprovoked, used tanks to run down hundreds of Chinese students peacefully camped in Tiananmen Square. This only approximates what actually happened.

The students had been camping in the country's central square for almost three months. The boldness of their passive action had attracted the western press. Their success in April 1989 in upstaging a state visit to Beijing by then Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, then at the height of his "perestroika" fame, brought them more attention.

It was the first official visit to the People's Republic by a Soviet head of state in 30 years, and the students' action was acutely embarrassing to China's more cautious Communist leadership. This legitimized the students as they began to attract more supporters, more support and much more Western press attention. Their vague early demands began to become unconditional.

Thus the context as the Beijing spring deepened in 1989. The face-off became pointed between an embarrassed government and an emboldened student movement. Provincial and territorial army units were called in to the outskirts of Beijing to intimidate. It didn't work.

The government's saber rattling to defuse the crisis was shattered by the sympathies of the international press and courageous actions of a single, never identified Chinese student standing in front of a column of PLA

tanks on one of Beijing's central avenues. The students with their own modest agenda had become the hot focus of the world's attention and a pawn in an internal political fight within the Chinese hierarchy.

With this past as prologue, army units began to squeeze the square in the middle of the night on June 4. The students were warned to evacuate. And in fact they did. The indelible image of the army shooting students and tanks crushing them in Tiananmen Square itself never happened—in fact, the tanks were filmed rolling over empty tents. The bloodletting was in

the streets fanning out from Tiananmen.

The initial reports of several thousand students killed were overblown. Careful analysis affirmed that something less than half the breathless casualty figures first

circulated were the actuality. Chinese officials insist that more than a hundred Chinese troops were killed by the supposedly unarmed students. Certainly some students were armed. Certainly some troops shot others who were shooting at students during the rout.

These are the bloody details. But the symbols are more important than the substance. As much as any contemporary incident in the world today, Tiananmen has a life—and mythology—of its own. It traumatized China for a time, and created a "pre" and "post" benchmark for the country's gradual Open Door evolution. It is a litmus test for

China's actions and attitude regarding internal dissent from this point forward. □

CROCKER SNOW JR. IS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF *The World Paper*.

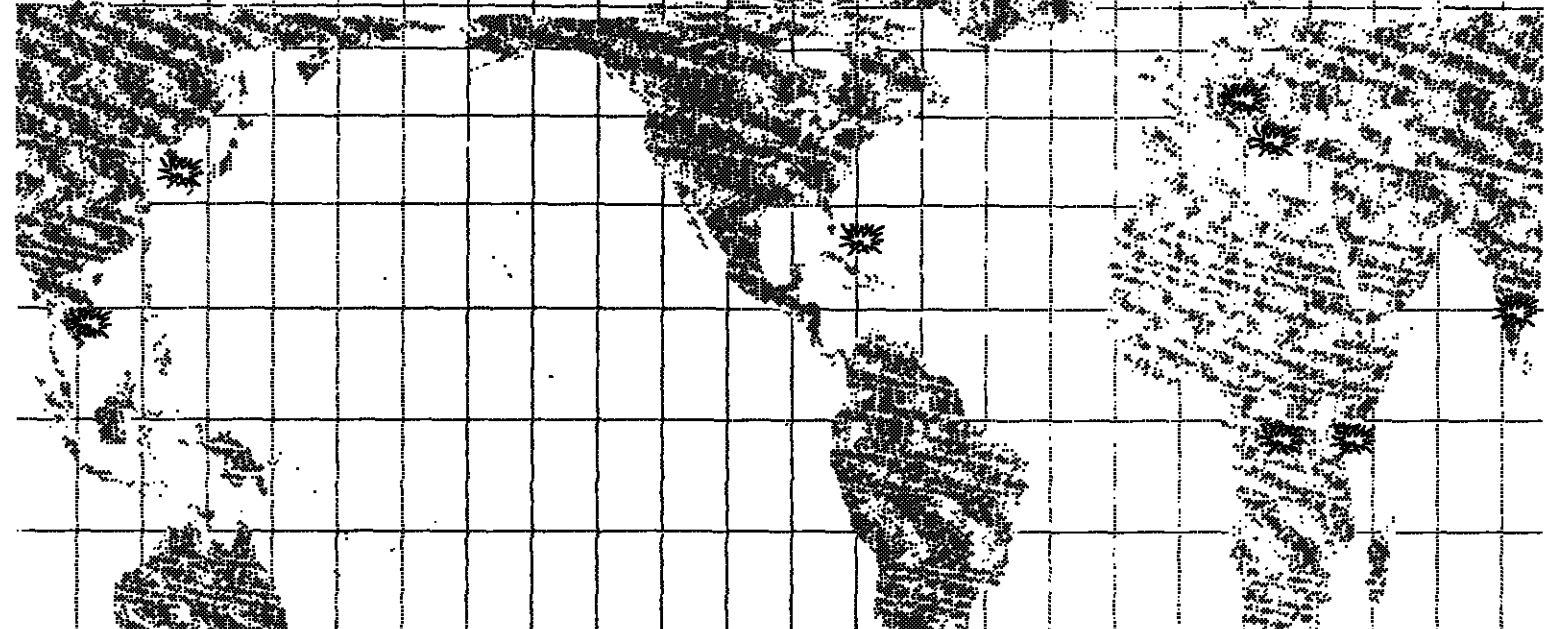
THE WORLD PAPER

The World Paper appears as a special section in national newspapers and magazines around the world.

Published by World Paper, Inc. 220 West 17th Street, New York, NY 10011-1201 USA Tel: (212) 633-5400 Fax: (212) 633-5403

Editor-in-Chief: Crocker Snow Jr., Managing Editor: Carolyn Brandt.

Web site: www.worldpaper.com Volume 206, Number 6/14 © World Paper, Inc.



Student protest and action are part of the natural order of things. In the 1980s, students staged demonstrations in New York and Paris in an effort to end the Vietnam War. A decade later Japanese students fought to halt the construction of Tokyo's Narita Airport. At the start of the 1990s, Chilean students put pressure on Augusto Pinochet to end his long dictatorship. Today, a new generation of students are carrying the water for social change. This map illustrates a few of the hotspots in the past three months. In that time, students in Zurich and Helsinki have taken to the streets to push for new governments. German students have rallied in Hamburg for the environment, Cambodians to change the education system and South Koreans to protest corruption. Several Kenyan students have died fighting for political reform, and two Indian student leaders paid for their political beliefs with their lives—both were shot.

choose what they study because the government is reducing their subsidies and gradually adopting the Western system of education where students pay for their own tuition. Again, this is a result of economic reform; it's nothing to do with what was being asked for at Tiananmen.

WP: In terms of non-economic things, press freedom and human rights, do you think China has improved?

JUNTAO: Now in China you can research any paper; nobody pays attention to you. You can say Deng was bad in the street and police don't arrest you. The people would say, "That guy is crazy to speak empty words in the street. Why doesn't he go and earn some money?"

SONG: The human rights record—I cannot say there is any change for the better. If anything, it's worse.

From a historical point of view, though, the events in Tiananmen Square made people aware of the oth-

er of group rights in politics. Independent civil society developed very fast just because of the economic reform.

The Chinese government withdrew from many aspects of society. Now the private sector's treasure is almost equal to the state owned. It means government cannot control as much.

The government let people complain about the local government. China is very big and most people only care about their area and don't understand the central government. Now the central government doesn't want to defend local government.

WP: Will this continue?

JUNTAO: Only one person could have stopped it, Deng and he is dead, so yes. Now the government has two directions it can go. One is democracy and the other is economic reform. They have chosen economic reform. Now, if they stop all reform they will be overthrown by people.

portant than others.

But we also needed some heroes to get the Western world to notice. Also the movement gets support because those images also support the beautiful movement. If someone should represent the movement, I think it should be those students because they fought in Tiananmen Square. They were at the center of the hunger strike, and also the media attention.

Chinese people know the political game in China. The really important figures are always behind the scenes; they never stand on the stage. This is different from American politics. In China, you cannot stand on stage if you are a senior person because the government would crack down on you.

But students are seen differently. They're given more latitude. So sometimes intellectuals and other democrats like to promote students' movement to take advantage of this. I think American journalists missed this. □

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ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY

8:30-9:00 Holy Koran
9:00-9:30 French Programs
9:30-10:00 French World Square
Special
10:00-10:30 Islamic
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The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on JTV from 13-20 June

ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY
 3:30—Holy Koran
 3:35—French Programs
 4:00—Gillette World Sport Special
 4:30—Innovation
 4:50—Tilt
 5:15—Blue Heelers
 6:00—French Programs
 7:00—French News
 7:30—News Headlines
 7:35—Hangin' with Mr. Cooper
 8:00—Magazine Zero One
 8:30—Prism
 9:10—Time Trax
 10:00—News at Ten
 10:30—McGyver
 11:05—Football Match (Paraguay vs. Ecuador)

SUNDAY
 3:30—Holy Koran
 3:35—French Programs
 4:05—Global Family
 4:30—Energy Express
 4:50—Our world
 5:15—American Chart Show
 6:10—French Programs
 7:00—News in French
 7:30—News Headlines
 7:35—Fresh Prince of Bel Air
 8:00—Cinema, Cinema
 8:30—The Churchills
 9:10—Renegade
 10:00—Football Match (Bolivia vs. Peru)
 12:00—One West Waikiki

MONDAY
 3:30—Holy Koran
 3:40—Spirou



Murder She Wrote, Monday at 8:30 pm

4:05—Neighbors
 4:30—In The Wild
 5:00—Tilt
 5:30—Blue Heelers
 6:10—French Programs
 7:00—French News
 7:30—News Headlines
 7:35—Murphy Brown
 8:00—Discover Magazine (Doc.)
 8:30—Murder She Wrote
 9:10—Highlander
 10:00—News at Ten
 10:30—The White Verdict
 11:15—Homicide

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- Plaza (Tel: 699238):
Naser 56 (Arabic) / The English Patient
- Concord I (Tel: 677420):
Jerry Maguire
- Concord II (Tel: 677420):
Spacejam

(Doc.)
 10:00—News at Ten
 10:25—West Beach
 11:15—Drug Wars

WEDNESDAY

3:30—Holy Koran
 3:35—Football Match
 5:30—Bordertown
 6:00—French Programs
 7:00—French News
 7:30—News Headlines
 7:35—Grace Under Fire (Comedy)
 8:10—Soldier's Diary
 8:30—Challenges (Local talk show)
 9:10—Spencer for Hire (Drama)
 10:00—News at Ten
 10:25—Land's End
 11:15—American Gothic (Doc.)
 1:05—Football Match (Peru vs. Venezuela)

THURSDAY

3:30—Holy Koran
 3:35—Football Match (Mexico vs. Costa Rica)
 4:00—Out of This World
 5:00—French Programs
 7:00—French News
 7:30—News Headlines
 7:35—Step by Step
 8:00—World Echo
 8:30—The Oprah Winfrey (New Talk Show)
 9:10—Kung Fu
 10:00—News at Ten
 10:30—Feature Film: Taken Away
 1:05—Football Match (Peru vs. Uruguay)

FRIDAY

3:00—Holy Koran
 3:05—Leo the Lion (Cartoon)

3:30—Wish Bone
 4:05—Neighbors
 4:30—Winners Down Under
 5:15—Varieties
 5:30—French Film
 7:00—French News
 7:30—News Headlines
 7:35—Family Matters
 8:00—The Health Show
 8:30—Hawkeye (Drama)
 9:10—500 Nations
 10:00—News at Ten
 10:30—Mini Series
 12:00—NBA Games
 1:35—Football Match—Americas Cup (Mexico vs. Columbia)

PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS

SAMEDI
 3:30—Dessins animés
 Arsène Lupin
 6:00—Série policière
 Sœurs froides
 7:00—Le journal
 7:15—Magazine
 L'écrit de Colomb

DIMANCHE
 3:30—Dessins animés
 Arsène Lupin
 6:00—Magazine
 Faut pas rêver
 7:00—Le journal
 7:15—Magazine
 Ziva

LUNDI
 3:30—Dessins animés
 Arsène Lupin
 6:00—Documentaire
 Pégué
 7:00—Le journal
 7:15—Magazine scientifique
 Cinq sur cinq

Programs are subject to change by JTV

Highlight of the week at the Pleasure Dome

● **A Time To Kill:** "One of the Year's Most Powerful Films!"
 Superbly Acted and Extremely Compelling."
 Jeffrey Lyons, "Sneak Previews" ABC World News Now
 Ellen Roark (SANDRA BULLOCK), an energetic, ambitious and razor-sharp Boston-born law student at "Ole Miss," determined to assist Jake (MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY) in the legal proceedings, drawn to the case ... and to take himself ... without recognizing the risks inherent in both.
 The trial of Carl Lee Hailey (SAMUEL L. JACKSON) sparks a cauldron of conflicting emotions from a kaleidoscopic range of Mississippians - white and black, poor and privileged, Klan members desperate to regenerate their dying "glory," civil rights activists anxious to keep their cause moving forward - a microcosm of a unique place in the American landscape where time is no longer standing still.
 As Jake fights to defend Carl Lee, his own life and the safety of his family and colleagues become increasingly jeopardized. And now, as a full-scale conflagration simmers just below the surface and threatens to explode in this small, Southern community, Jake and Carl Lee must find a way to transcend their fundamental differences and work together for the same cause ... equal justice.



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Superior Releases from Warner Brothers!

■ **Surviving Picasso:** The amazing story of the even more amazing character. Starring Sir Anthony Hopkins as Pablo Picasso, the film depicts the charismatic and passionate life of this genius and the women spell-bound by him.

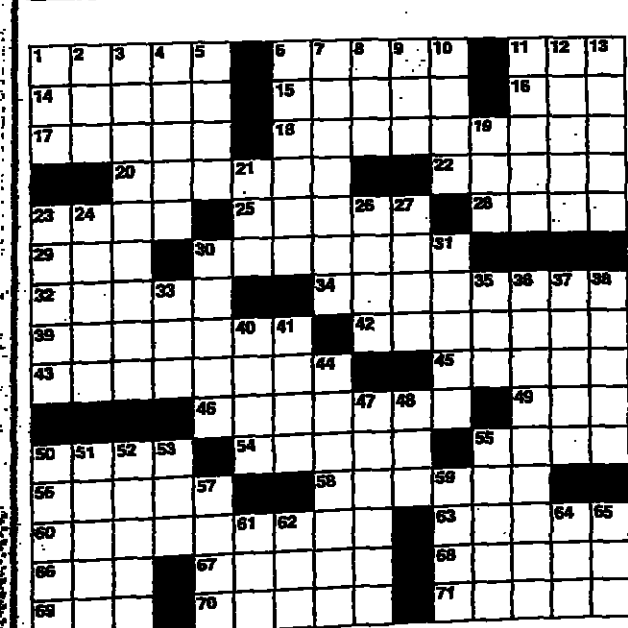
■ **Michael Collins:** The tale of the patriot whose bravery and unwavering dedication to the Irish people changed history as it made him into a legend. Liam Neeson, Stephen Rea, Aidan Quinn, Alan Rickman, and the formidable Julia Roberts prove in a fire proof manner their abilities in this moving feature.

■ **The Glimmer Man:** The desperate hunt for a serial killer has just gotten tougher for lapd homicide detectives Cole and Campbell; they've become partners! This searing thriller starring Steven Seagal and Keenan Ivory Wayans promises packs of action and wits.

■ **It's Cup:** Kevin Costner is back again in a big way! If you thought that Golf and Golfers are boring, then this film will change your mind; Costner and Rene Russo get involved in a clever full of laughs battle of the sexes ... a must see. Directed by Ron Shelton (Bull Durham, white men can't jump).

Courtesy: "The Pleasure Dome"
 Tel: 676558 - Fax: 5538087

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- ACROSS**
 1 Georgia city
 11 Cruise metal
 14 Upstairs
 15 Automobile
 16 Pod
 17 vegetable
 18 Morise's partner
 19 Mismatch phrase
 20 Football team
 21 Eagle's nest
 22 Zoo
 25 Certain religion
 28 Hattie or Horace
 29 Use a chair
 30 Wanted
 32 Stirling area
 34 Meath course
 35 Topped with ice cream
 43 Interval
 45 George — of
- DOWN**
 1 Scall rug
 2 Browsers or Vigoda
 3 Covered wagon of old
 4 Cornucopia molding
 5 Bird of Hawaii
 6 James — ("Matt Dillon")
 7 Like some rights
 8 TV network
 9 Animal park
 10 Stillborn
 11 — bouffe
 12 Tree product
 13 Devoured
 19 Pro —
 21 Complete
 23 Indian state
 24 French city
 26 Length times width
 27 Blackbird
 30 Obligations
 31 Way of speaking
 33 Owl
 35 South Fr.
 36 Singing voice
 37 Comedian
 38 — Hall U.
 40 Actress
 41 Moreno
 42 Iowa city
 44 Made certain of
 47 Bovines
 48 Wedding vow
 50 Boxer's play
 51 — "Sanctum"
 52 Lure
 53 Spanish gold
 55 Broaden
 57 At any time
 59 Family member
 61 Fresno's state abbr.
 62 Flightless bird
 64 — "girl"
 65 Adios, briefly

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—THIS WEEK'S— HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: Start a business. Not only will it be profitable, it'll also be fun. Mercury goes retrograde, causing a traffic jam. Leave early.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Do your bills so you can forget about them. You may be drawn into a fascinating conversation from which you don't want to emerge.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): You're strongest now, so take decisive action. You'll run into stiff competition, but you'll probably win. Watch out for confusion or lies.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): If there's something you need for your room, ask a Taurus to help you get it. You'd spend too much otherwise.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): Don't rely on your partner too much. He or she will be wrong more often than usual. Stay ahead by memorizing important material yourself.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): If you're not in the job you want, you should be. You'll learn a lot from your friends and neighbors.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You're looking very good. If your plans for romance don't go through, it's not your fault. Be patient and you may still succeed.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Pay your bills. If you forget one of them, you'll be in trouble. Instead of buying what you want, save your money. You'll need it.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Meet with your team and set priorities. You'll be kept busy complying with bureaucratic requirements. Get that stuff handled, so you can take on a fierce competitor.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take careful notes, you'll be tested on trivia. You can get a little help from your friends — let them know what you need.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You are very lucky but hold back just a little. Don't give up if you run into a delay in achieving your dream.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If you share costs with a friend you can get something you both want. Figure out how to do that. Get out for an intellectual adventure.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll learn best if you set priorities. Pay bills and other expenses. If you need a loan, apply for one.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: Push for a huge objective this year. You may not get all the way there, but you'll get a lot closer.

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Bridge

Play Or Defend?
 By Omar Sharif and Tannah Hirsch

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ J5
 ♥ AK10863
 ♦ J9
 ♣ J96

EAST

♠ 64
 ♥ J7
 ♦ AQ64
 ♣ K8543

SOUTH

♠ AKQ109873
 ♥ 5
 ♦ 3
 ♣ A102

The bidding:
 South West North East
 2♠ Pass 2♥ Pass
 2♠ Pass 3♥ Pass
 4NT Pass 5♦ Pass
 6♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠
 Study all four hands in the diagram above. After the lead of the ace of diamonds and a diamond continuation, would you rather declare or defend six spades?

The spade slam is not a difficult one to get to after an aggressive demand bid. The auction shown is for those who use two clubs as the only strong

bid. If those are not your methods, just start at the second line of the auction.

With only one sure entry to dummy, it might seem that the slam depends on an even heart break. Ruff the diamond continuation, cash the ace of hearts and ruff a heart high. Cash the ace of trumps and return to the table with the jack, drawing the last outstanding trump. But when West shows out on the third round of hearts, you must lose a club — down one.

Declarer can improve considerably on this line. Ruff the second diamond high, cash the ace and king of hearts and ruff a heart high to discover the 2 division. Now lead the three of trumps and, when West follows with the four, finesse the five! When that holds, ruff another heart, enter dummy with the jack of trumps and take a second club discard on a long heart. Making six odd.

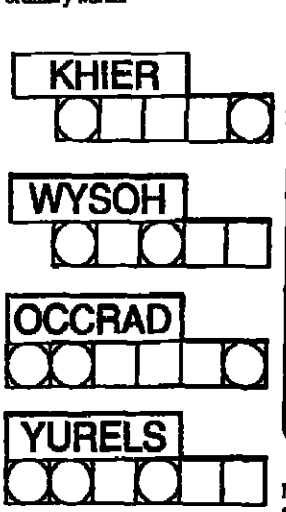
However, don't be in too much of a hurry to elect to declare — the defense still has a string to its bow. When South leads a low trump toward the board's J 5, West must insert the sixspotted! That forces the jack, and declarer does not have another low trump with which to reach dummy's five. No matter how declarer twists and turns, the defenders must get a club for down one.

Let's hope the all who chose to defend did so for the right reason!

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Jumble

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: A HOUSE OF CARDS

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Would You Believe...

Kangaroos use their tails to push off the ground and jump.

The tortoise generally has a longer life span than a human being. Tortoises can live more than 80 years, while a human's life expectancy is 70 to 80 years.

The planet Venus also is referred to as Lucifer, the morning star.

France's Louis XIV was only 4 years old when he became king.

Brazil takes up nearly half the land area of South America.

The Pacific Ocean takes up nearly one-third of the earth's surface.

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Massage helps you relax

THE HISTORY of massage inherently dates back to the beginning of time. Massage is a touch and since the beginning of mankind, the desire to touch and be touched has been instinctively embedded into man. From the viewpoint of touch, massage has also been a part of all living species. Whether it involves self-touch or the touch of another, all living beings have a basic need for and desire to be touched. Throughout the years, touch has evolved into one of the most profound and beneficial art forms ever known. The art of massage.

I use the word art because of the technique which play as essential role in effective massage. It is the master of technique who brings exceptional forms of relaxation, reflection, and connection of the mind with the body. A well-trained Massage Therapist will accomplish all these benefits and maximize the psychological and physical benefits you can receive from a massage. The benefits of massage come in many forms. For the purpose of describing the primary benefits of massage, I will categorize them into the Physical and Mental benefits one can potentially obtain by experiencing the art of a well trained massage therapist.

Physical benefits: Improves circulation, relaxes muscles; aids in digestion; speeds up the elimination of waste products; relaxes the nervous system; nourishes the skin; enhances the immune system.

The psychological benefits of massage: It helps us satisfy the need for touch and caring; reduces anxiety and mental stress; creates a better sense of well-being; increases the awareness of our body-mind connection.

Therapeutic massage can be an important component of your health maintenance or wellness plan. It helps keep the body and mind functioning optimally. It promotes well-nourished and healthy skin; relaxes muscles and improves joint mobility; improves circulation of blood and lymph; encourages general relaxation; improves immune system functioning; improves energy flow.

It also alleviates problem conditions. Therapeutic massage can help relieve certain common physical problems, and help bring the body back to optimal functioning.

Orbit sports to air the Royal Ascot meeting live

VIEWERS TURNING into Orbit-ESPN's live coverage of the Royal Ascot will have the opportunity to savor what is without doubt the finest four days of flat thoroughbred racing in the world. Coverage runs from Tuesday, June 17 through Friday, June 20.

Tuesday's action will commence at 12:45 pm GMT, with the St. James' Palace Stakes as the highlight of the day. Day two airs live from 12:45 pm GMT with all eyes on the runners in the Coronation Stakes.

The main highlight of the Ascot Meeting is the Gold Cup live on Thursday, June 28 at 1:00 pm GMT with the Pretty Polly Stakes live from the Curragh in Ireland followed by meetings from Newmarket and Newcastle starting at 1:50 pm GMT. Then on Sunday, June 29, starting at 1:15 pm GMT, Doncaster and the Curragh are the venues for a great afternoon's racing, featuring the Irish Derby from the Curragh.



LEISURE
 IS THE MOTHER
 OF PHILOSOPHY.

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Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

SELON

ON

La polémique

autour de la loi temporaire sur la presse et la publication montre à quel point le royaume hachémite souffre de la manière dont les acteurs politiques gèrent des problèmes de société cruciaux.

Le syndicat des journalistes jordaniens, par exemple, s'est abstenu d'agir en temps utile pour faire respecter un code d'honneur journalistique à ses membres. En revanche, le gouvernement s'est empressé d'imposer cette loi sans consulter ni le Parlement, ni le comité du syndicat des journalistes. Et les présidents des syndicats professionnels ont pour leur part choisi de démissionner, exprimant ainsi dans une attitude négative leur mécontentement.

Il faut reconnaître qu'en l'absence de mécanismes démocratiques stables de régulation, seul le dialogue est susceptible d'améliorer l'atmosphère politique et d'éviter les situations poussées à l'extrême.

C'est pourquoi on ne peut que regretter la tendance des formations politiques à traiter les questions nationales à travers des slogans et sans déployer les efforts nécessaires pour résoudre les problèmes posés.

De même, les comités des syndicats professionnels exploitent le statut privilégié de ces associations, les transformant pratiquement en tribunes politiques, et ce aux dépens à la fois de l'action professionnelle et de celle des partis politiques.

Pour consolider le processus démocratique dans le pays et rendre la vie politique plus équilibrée, il faudrait donc rationaliser le comportement des acteurs politiques. Mais étant donné que les choses se décident toujours en termes de rapport de force, il est par conséquent nécessaire de regrouper les forces démocratiques et libérales en un seul courant politique, afin de faire prévaloir le poids de ce courant dans la vie politique et sociale. Cela est d'autant plus urgent que les autres courants politiques sont organisés, ou bien en train de s'organiser.

La Jordanie a tout intérêt à ne pas être gouvernée par un courant conservateur. Une politique conservatrice ne pourrait en effet pas tenir compte des aspirations des Jordaniens au progrès et aux libertés démocratiques, et finirait par créer des tensions sociales.

Les forces démocratiques et libérales sont apparemment conscientes de cet état de fait. Elles ont en effet déjà entrepris des discussions pour dégager la formule adéquate convenant à leur action commune. C'est sans doute un pas important.

Néanmoins il est aujourd'hui prioritaire de définir l'attitude qu'il convient d'adopter pour la campagne électorale en cours, car la nouvelle assemblée sera chargée de façonner la vie politique pendant les quatre années à venir.

Russell Abu-Rumman

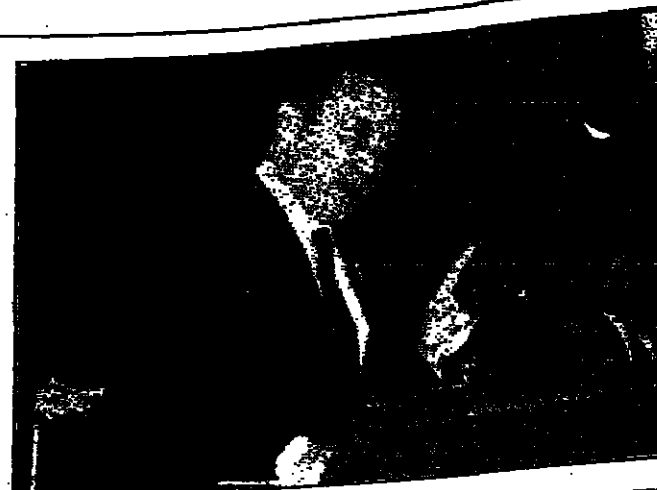
Le Jourdain, on y revient.
Tous les jeudis dans le Star
645 380

Des étoiles pour judaïser les yeux des Egyptiens

● L'étoile de David est partout. Certains journalistes égyptiens la voient dans les petits trous des passeroies, dans le logo publicitaire d'une lessive ou même sur la robe d'une artiste. Pour le journal hostile à l'Etat hébreu Al Arabi, c'est «une opération planifiée pour judaïser les yeux égyptiens». L'hebdomadaire s'indigne notamment de l'apparition de l'actrice Safaa Abou Saoud devant le président Hosni Moubarak (voir notre photo) avec une robe représentant les drapeaux américain et israélien. En fait, la journaliste a confondu les bandes bleues de la bannière étoilée avec celles du drapeau israélien.

De même, pour Al Arabi, le logo de la lessive Ariel n'est autre que l'emblème sioniste. Faïx, rétorque le chef des relations publiques de la société, «choisi il y a 45 ans, notre sigle représente un atome pour signifier que les particules de notre lessive sont comme des atomes pulvérisant la saleté avec la force de l'énergie nucléaire».

«Voilà en toute étoile à six branches un emblème sioniste relève de l'analphabetisme culturel», souligne pour sa part un architecte, fabricant de meubles de style islamique. Il rappelle que «de telles étoiles existent depuis toujours dans des églises et mosquées égyptiennes». Il est vrai que cette étoile n'a été reconnue comme un symbole du judaïsme qu'au 19^e siècle.



Relations israélo-jordanien

Le chantier de la paix n'avance plus depuis un an

L'arrivée de Benjamin Netanyahu au pouvoir en Israël voilà un an a marqué un tournant dans les relations israélo-jordanien. Après l'ère de confiance réciproque qui a suivi la signature du traité de paix, les Jordaniens ont assisté à un revirement de politique de la part de l'Etat hébreu. Israël semble aujourd'hui privilégier avant tout sa situation intérieure.

Un an après la nomination de Benjamin Netanyahu en Israël, l'inquiétude et l'incertitude ont remplacé l'optimisme et la confiance. De plus en plus, les partisans de la paix en Jordanie se heurtent au cynisme des opposants à cette cause. Pour ces derniers, il n'y a rien à attendre d'un Etat qu'ils considèrent encore comme l'ennemi sioniste.

Bien sûr les acquis de la paix sont plus remarquables que les accrocs. Mais comment ne pas parler de ces erreurs qui risquent à tout moment d'entraver le cours du processus de paix, voire de le faire dériver. Il est en effet toujours plus facile de détruire que de construire. Selon le proverbe arabe, un feu peut facilement jeter une pierre dans un puits, mais cent hommes sages ne peuvent pas la retirer.

Rappelons que la signature du traité de paix entre la Jordanie et Israël tenait surtout à deux facteurs. D'abord, il y avait un respect mutuel entre le Roi Hussein et Yitzhak Rabin, alors Premier ministre d'Israël. Ensuite Yitzhak Rabin comprenait bien la complexité de la situation jordanienne, et il était prêt à trouver des compromis pour augmenter le crédit des défenseurs de la paix en Jordanie. Une politique qui a permis aux deux pays de surmonter des crises après la signature du traité de paix. Ainsi, M. Rabin a accepté de suspendre l'expansion d'une colonie en Cisjordanie après l'intervention personnelle du Roi Hussein.

Après l'assassinat de Yitzhak Rabin, il était difficile de rétablir une telle entente entre les dirigeants des deux pays. Pendant la campagne électorale de 1996, Shimon Pérès, le successeur de Rabin, voulait rassurer les électeurs. Il s'est montré plus ferme sur les questions de sécurité. Il a notamment refusé de suspendre le bombardement du Liban en avril 1996 pendant la visite de son homologue jordanien Abdel Karim Kabariti, qui cherchait à jouer les médiateurs dans le conflit israélo-libanais. Pour les dirigeants jordaniens, le message était clair : Shimon Pérès trouvait les considérations électorales beaucoup plus importantes que l'entente avec son voisin arabe.

Trois idées fausses

Face à cette position pourtant jugée insultante à Amman, la Jordanie a préféré attendre les résultats des élections. Après la victoire du Likoud, le Roi Hussein a été contraint de consentir la paix avec Benjamin Netanyahu qui se montre encore moins à l'écoute que son prédécesseur des besoins de la Jordanie. Et des son accès au pouvoir, il fonde sa politique sur trois idées fausses.

1. M. Netanyahu sous-estime le besoin du gouvernement jordanien de rester crédible auprès de son opinion publique. Or le pouvoir hachémite doit sans cesse rassurer le peuple et lui montrer que la paix, et la normalisation des relations avec Israël sont les bons choix.

2. Le Premier ministre israélien ne croit pas que la Jordanie soit contrariée par les événements en Cisjordanie. Le gouvernement du Likoud semble diviser la société jordanienne en deux catégories. D'un côté, les Transjordaniens, favorables à la paix, quoi qu'il se passe de

l'autre côté du Jourdain. Et de l'autre, les Jordaniens d'origine palestinienne ainsi que les islamistes, opposés au traité de paix, mais sans aucune influence sur les décisions du pays. Certains penseurs israéliens s'imaginent même que le comportement de leur gouvernement envers les Palestiniens rencontre la satisfaction tacite des Jordaniens. De fait, Israël sous-estime dangereusement la force des liens qui unissent les Jordaniens et les Palestiniens.

3. Pour M. Netanyahu, les Arabes, y compris les Jordaniens, sont incapables de réagir à la politique d'Israël. Du coup, les Israéliens se permettent de refuser tout compromis, car selon eux, les Arabes accepteraient avec le temps leur politique du fait accompli. Une fois de plus, cette logique ne tient pas compte du point de vue jordanien.

M. Netanyahu est finalement peu obnubilé par une grande vision pour son pays. Sa politique étrangère est dominée essentiellement par des considérations internes, et surtout le maintien des factions extrémistes dans sa coalition. Le besoin de rassembler ces factions ne lui laisse qu'une marge de manœuvre très étroite, ce qui l'éloigne de la direction courageuse et visionnaire adoptée par le gouvernement d'Yitzhak Rabin. Cette stratégie arrive encore à réduire au silence les critiques des Etats Unis, l'allié le plus important de l'Etat hébreu, mais pas celles de l'Europe. Et même au sein du lobby sioniste américain, l'inquiétude envers la politique d'Israël est croissante.

Du côté jordanien, le gouvernement comptait sur les ef

forts d'Israël pour fournir la preuve du bien-fondé du traité de paix. Ce qu'avait bien compris M. Rabin, au contraire de ses successeurs.

Pas d'engagement israélien

Amman continue donc de poursuivre sa politique de «construction de la paix». Mais l'opposition populaire à la normalisation gagne en puissance à chaque nouvelle provocation du Likoud. Par exemple, certains chefs d'entreprise qui voulaient conclure des affaires avec des Israéliens, ont dû céder leurs places à d'autres plus réticents vis-à-vis de la normalisation.

Dans l'immédiat, le risque

d'une guerre entre le royaume hachémite et Israël n'existe pas. Mais une question se pose : la Jordanie pourra-t-elle continuer sa politique de construction de la paix sans un engagement réciproque israélien ?

Un enjeu de taille qui ne se réduit pas à ces deux pays. La paix au Proche-Orient ne peut durer que si elle est globale. Autrement dit, si l'Etat israélien désire réellement assurer sa sécurité, il doit non seulement établir la paix avec la Jordanie, mais aussi avec tous ses voisins. Ceux-ci regardent en effet très attentivement son comportement envers le royaume hachémite. Et ils remarquent que M. Netanyahu multiplie les actions provocatrices, voire



La Jordanie n'a plus les mêmes interlocuteurs. Le roi Hussein et son Premier ministre Abdel Salem Majadi doivent négocier aujourd'hui avec Benjamin Netanyahu.

Ali Kassey

illégales, sans tenir compte des démarches jordaniennes pour calmer la situation.

Après un an de gouvernement Netanyahu, les Arabes ont l'impression que le Premier ministre israélien ne récompense la bonne volonté que par l'intransigence, que ce soit par conviction ou pour obtenir le soutien des extrémistes de son pays. Et cette politique, loin d'encourager les Arabes à négocier, pousse aujourd'hui les pays du Golfe et de l'Afrique du Nord, qui avaient entamé un processus de normalisation plus ou moins officiel, à revenir sur leurs positions.

Ali Kassey

commentaire de Ghazi Bishah, directeur du département des Antiquités et expert de la période omeyyade.

D'ici la publication de cet ouvrage, les Jordaniens qui ne seront pas à Paris peuvent déjà avoir un avant-goût de ces peintures à l'association des Amis de l'archéologie. Quelques reproductions sont en effet présentées là-bas, et partiront prochainement dans les écoles de Jordanie.

Samaa Abu-Sharar

Association des Amis de l'archéologie

Tél: 696 682

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Saison jordanienne

Retour sur 8000 ans d'Histoire

L'exposition «Jordanie, sur les pas des archéologues», inaugurée ce soir à Paris par le roi Hussein, offre un voyage vers les temps les plus reculés du royaume hachémite.

Vous voici au cœur des richesses archéologiques et historiques de la Jordanie, un peu comme ces voyageurs d'un autre temps qui en ont découvert les mystères.

Dans cette exposition proposée par l'Institut du Monde Arabe jusqu'au 5 octobre, le visiteur retrouve la démarche de l'archéologue qui fouille les vestiges les plus récents pour découvrir le passé. C'est l'une des originalités de l'exposition. La visite commence au VIII^e siècle de notre èpoque et se termine 7000 ans av. J.C. Un parcours inversé qui recouvre plusieurs périodes du passé. «Ce voyage cherche à offrir une Jordanie de l'Antiquité», explique Ghazi Bishah, directeur du département des Antiquités à Amman. «Le visiteur passe d'une époque à une autre grâce aux vestiges archéologiques qui datent des ères omeyyade, romaine, byzantine, hellénistique, nabatéenne, néolithique et même des âges du fer et du bronze».

Au total, plus de 200 objets et fragments sont présentés :

des jarres, des brûle-parfums, des jattes, des céramiques ainsi que des peintures, des pages rures du Coran ou des écrits anciens.

A ne pas manquer, la stèle de Mestha reconstituée au Louvre et le rouleau de cuivre de Qumran.

On y découvre aussi une maquette sur l'architecture et l'art omeyyade de Qusayr Amra (voir ci-contre) et les mosaïques des églises de Madaba et de Jérusalem. Elles représentent des scènes religieuses et même mythologiques. Pétra n'est pas oubliée avec des photos inédites de la fin du siècle dernier et des clichés récents en couleur de la ville rouge.

Et enfin les fameuses statues et figurines néolithiques d'Aïn Ghazal, exposées pour la première fois en Europe. Avec cette sélection d'objets variés, le public français est initié à l'état de la recherche archéologique en Jordanie. «Au-delà de Pétra, il existe



Idole anthropomorphe retrouvée à Pétra.

d'autres haltes étonnantes à découvrir dans un pays où cohabitent les monuments de plusieurs civilisations», insiste Geneviève Van Rossum, attachée culturelle auprès de l'ambassade de France à Amman. «Dans cette exposition, il y a des choses nouvelles sur la Jordanie. J'espère qu'elle sera produite ailleurs en France, pas uniquement à Paris.»

Nahed Al-Khlouf

C'est la vie

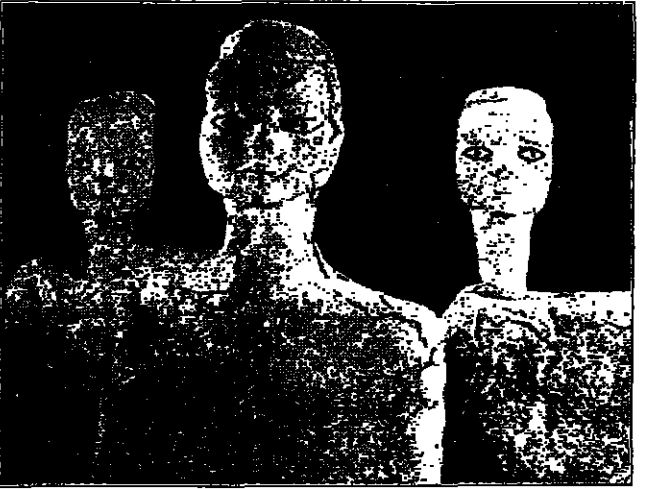
L'agenda français d'Amman

Cinéma

Cycle consacré au réalisateur Claude Sautet. Le 16 juin à 20h30 au CCCL, Vincent, François, Paul et les autres (1974).

Exposition

L'artiste Guy Ferrer présente ses œuvres (sculptures et tableaux) au CCCL jusqu'au 19 juin 1997.



Les fameuses figurines d'Aïn Ghazal, pour la première fois en Europe.



Une partie de la maquette de Qusayr Amra.

كانا من ارض حو

Corrosive effects of civilization threaten pyramids



A panoramic view of the pyramids in Giza, Egypt. (The Baltimore Sun, photo by Ann LoLordo.)

Ann LoLordo

CAIRO, Egypt—At the foot of the pyramids, a turbaned old man sells bottled water from a cart jammed with blocks of ice. Nearby, a group of young men share a picnic lunch in the shade of the pyramids' tomb. Teenage boys gather for an afternoon smoke. And a camel-riding police officer chases hucksters from the promenade leading to the Great Pyramid of Cheops. Tourist buses, taxis and horse-drawn carts vie for space in a parking lot that faces the smoggy skyline of Cairo.

"Hey, you need a camel? He's a very good camel," the animal's owner calls out in accented English to a passing tourist. "His name is Charley Brown."

In their time, the ancient tombs of the pharaohs have survived conquering Greeks, Romans, Mamelukes and Turks. But urban sprawl and

the tourist trade of the 20th century are today's threat to Egypt's treasures. The Great Pyramid, one of the seven wonders of the world, suffers from what Zahi Hawass calls "site pollution." And Hawass, the caretaker of this more than 4,000-year-old mausoleum, is trying to implement the cure. A plan, already under way, seeks to manage the tourist trade.

He wants to create a buffer around the site to separate it from the prevailing carnival-like atmosphere. Horsemen gallop along a paved road, slowing to offer tourists a trek to the Sphinx. Camels, their humps draped with colorful woolen saddle bags, plod beside rundown taxis ferrying visitors to a scenic overlook.

Children free from the cares of school scramble up the facade of the Great Pyramid as did visitors before the turn-of-

the-century. A French tourist withdraws from pesky souvenir hawkers, while another admires the blue scarabs for sale. Anxious camel riders fret about the price of their desert journey, hoping that the fee includes getting on—and off—the beast.

"If you come to the pyramids, this site should have dignity. It should have mystery and quietness," says Hawass, the pyramids director since 1987. "People should not be bothered by the noise, by camel drivers speaking in American accents. They shouldn't have a post card vendor running after them."

Perhaps the solemnity envisioned by Hawass would be achievable if the pyramids existed in an expanse of desert pictured in so many post cards. But the pyramids stand now at the edge of a Cairo suburb.

The road that leads here—a 7-mile stretch built in 1860 to accommodate an empress' carriage—remained unpaved until the 1970s when President Carter visited. Today, however, the pyramids road is four lanes wide. And it's lined with souvenir shops, nightclubs, a few hotels, papyrus institutes and fast-food restaurants. Houses and apartment buildings have risen in the fertile fields that once stretched south from Cairo.

This is the scene that leads to the Giza plateau. But behind the great stone structures, the land swells and softens in the sands of the Sahara. At daybreak or dusk, the pyramids most resemble the limestone monuments seen by the old explorers. Silhouetted against a dying sun, they rise majestically in a mauve-tinted sky.

But most tourists see the pyramids in the bright glare of the sun. Many arrive on tour buses that drive to an area behind the pyramids, an overlook known as the Panorama for its splendid view.

Before the tourists descend from buses, vendors in the traditional *galibya* walk briskly toward them. They carry T-shirts with Pharaonic symbols. Necklaces and tote bags hang from one arm; the other offers up a tray of miniature pyramids and figurines of the pharaohs.

Government-licensed camel drivers also stroll over. Their stone-eyed beasts remain on a nearby sandy plot. The management plan being implemented by the pyramid authorities would relocate the camels from this ridge. The drivers say the move would cut into their business, a trade manned by generations of camel men.

Farouk Mohammed Furgani followed his father and grandfather to the pyramids. He has worked in the trade 38 of his 54 years. Born in the nearby Mena village, Furgani is a tall man whose dark complexion conveys his sub-Saharan ancestry.

He wears the *galibya* and sneakers. A baseball cap wrapped with a scarf protects him from the sun. He keeps his two camels, Mohammad and Ali, at the stable outside the pyramid gates. If Hawass moves ahead with his plan to move the camel drivers to a new area, Furgani says his daily camel commute would increase to two hours.

Sayed Khattab, a tour guide, follows his father and grandfather to the pyramids. He has worked in the trade 38 of his 54 years. Born in the nearby Mena village, Khattab is a tall man whose dark complexion conveys his sub-Saharan ancestry.

He wears the *galibya* and sneakers. A baseball cap wrapped with a scarf protects him from the sun. He keeps his two camels, Mohammad and Ali, at the stable outside the pyramid gates. If Hawass moves ahead with his plan to move the camel drivers to a new area, Khattab says his daily camel commute would increase to two hours.

Pros of 'Con' too few to save latest Bruckheimer film

By Kenneth Turan

HOLLYWOOD—"Con Air" is a big, loud, noisy movie made with almost scientific precision for people who like big, loud, noisy movies. Numbing but not boring, it's finally more dispiriting than exhilarating, like a wild night of debauchery that leaves only a fearsome hangover for a souvenir.

Producer Jerry Bruckheimer, having made "Top Gun," "Bad Boys," "The Rock" and similar fare with his late partner Don Simpson, knows the drill for this kind of picture. Pump up the volume, add on the crashes, blasts and explosions, increase the body count and sit back and count the money.

New to Jerry's world are Simon West, a British commercial director making his feature debut, and screenwriter Scott Rosenberg, best known for "Things to Do in Denver When You're Dead." Their contributions, combined with a capable group of actors, improve on business as usual, but the change isn't enough to make this trip necessary for the uninitiated.

The story of how "every creep and freak in the known universe" combine to take over a US Marshall's Service prison airplane, "Con Air" starts with a glimpse of its hero, human killing machine Cameron Poe (Nicolas Cage), at a high point in his life. A newly minted Army Ranger, Poe

has barely had time to receive a welcome home kiss from his pregnant wife in Mobile, Alabama, before he gets involved in a barroom altercation and ends up drawing a seven-to-10-year sentence for justifiable homicide.

Passing the hours studying origami and staying fit, Poe also finds time to write mushy letters to his wife and the daughter he's never met, notes that Cage reads in an Alabama accent so thick it makes George Wallace sound like David Niven. It's the signature of a borderline parody performance that warns "Anaconda's" Jon Voight he'd best look to his laurels.

Paroled after eight years, Poe is just an airplane ride away from his family. But the plane he calls "my sweet bird of freedom" is in reality an airborne snake pit, taking a group of criminal monsters to a new supervision designed to "warehouse the worst of the worst."

Demented leader of this particular pack is Cyrus "The Virus" Grissom, "poster child for the criminally insane," neatly played by a gleeful John Malkovich. Among his henchpersons



Cage as Cameron Poe in "Con Air." Other cast members include Nathan "Diamond Dog" Jones (Ving Rhames), a murderous black separatist; the aptly named Billy Bedlam (Nick Chinlund); and serial rapist John "Johnny 23" Baca (Danny Trejo).

Much to the chagrin of the good guys on the ground, ranging from the shrewd Vince Larkin (John Cusack) to Duncan Malloy (Colm Meaney), hot-headed enough to have "AZZ KIKR" on his license plate, these menaces to society commandeer the plane and make a try for freedom.

Plot contrivances being what they are, Poe has a chance to walk away from this messy cargo. But, as chivalrous as his accent, he stays on board to protect best friend Baby-O (Mykelti Williamson) and a female guard (Rachel Ticotin). Johnny 23 has in his sights. "I can't trade a friend's life for my own," he says, a grand sentiment for sure.

Director West is adept at keeping things moving and writer Rosenberg does provide some good lines, like Cyrus' sincere "love your work" aside to Hannibal Lecterish mass murderer Garland Greene (Steve Buscemi).

But with a noise level so high the dialogue has to be screamed and more silly moments than sane ones, "Con Air" is an animated comic book put together to pound an audience into submission, not entertain it. It gets the job done, but a pretty picture it is not.

LA Times-Washington Post News Service



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Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd. announces tender invitation No. 98/97 for the supply of LPG cylinders with the following two alternatives quantities 200000 CYL., 300000 CYL.

Companies who wish to participate in the above tender are invited to obtain tender documents before 12:30 hrs from the company's head office at the first circle-Jabal Amman, against a non refundable J.D (140) per set.

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THE STAR'S WORKSTATION

Edited by Zeid Nasser

The chances for 56kbps modems in Jordan: A light at the end of the tunnel?

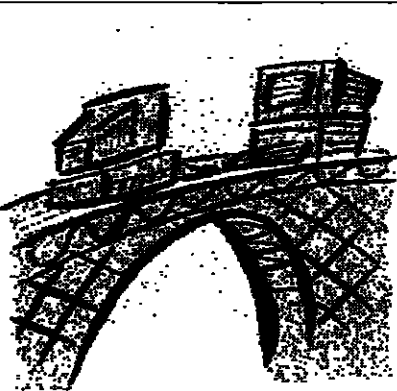
By Jawad Abbassi

Special to The Star
"WHERE THERE is a will there is way," goes the popular saying. And it seems that, for Jordan's Internet service providers to offer their customers the new higher speed modems (the new 56kbps modems), there must be a lot of planning and investment to go with that needed "will".

The adoption and release of the 56kbps standard within the coming six months is bound to spur a growth in their production by most modem manufacturers and will therefore make them available at competitive prices. Hence, the price of the modems themselves will not be an issue. However, the ability of the Internet Service Provider to install them is.

In last week's article, I explained that these new modems offer their enhanced 56 kbps speed in the direction of the ISP to the customer, and for this to be achieved one condition must be met: The ISP's telephone lines must be connected to the public telephone network through a digital connection on which the "ISP side" 56 kbps modems

will be attached. This digital connection is the issue that ought to concern Jordan's Internet Service Providers since the set up needed is a lot different from the current practice.



tice of connecting regular analog phone lines.

ISP's that want to offer the 56 kbps modems must implement what is referred to as Private Branch Exchange (PBX) that gets the connection from the telephone company through a digital leased line to be divided into the voice channels needed for the phone lines.

As good voice quality channels currently need 64 kbps of

bandwidth; an ISP needs to have 30 telephone lines that are digitally connected to the telephone network, requiring a 2 mbps (Megabit) digital leased line with the Jordan Telecommunications Co.

This "leased line to PBX" scenario is what eliminates the need for an analog to digital conversion using a PCM from the ISP to the user which makes the adoption of the 56 kbps modems possible.

It is very probable, however, that the case for adopting and adapting to the requirements of 56 kbps modems by Jordan's ISPs will face many reservations that will revolve around two important points. The first concerns the actual leased line capacity of the ISP's to the

Internet which hasn't exceeded 256 kbps by any of Jordan's licensed ISPs (Global One, NETS, Index, Comcent, MEC and FTG).

With many simultaneous connections by the users, the limited capacity leased line will be split and many believe that the current 33.6 kbps modems will do just fine as the bottleneck remains the ISP's connection to the Internet and not the

user's connection to the ISP.

CD-ROM on Jordan by the Royal Court

● The Royal Court has introduced a CD-ROM called "A Guide to The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Rel. 1.1". Utilizing multimedia effectively, this software represents an excellent source of information on the Kingdom. This includes general, social, environmental and economic aspects.

This valuable piece of software, produced by the computer department in the Royal Hashemite Court, deserves praise.



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ular copper wires provided that the distance between the ISP and the telephone company's transmission equipment doesn't exceed 3 km.

To have Jordanian ISP's invest in what is needed for 56 kbps modems is highly unlikely, since their priorities will revolve on increasing their bandwidth to the Internet and cutting their costs to be competitive.

The high costs associated with adopting the faster modems are a major concern. The light at the end of the tunnel is still far away for the time being!

Abbassi@NETS.com.jo

The latest figures on piracy in the Middle East: Software theft still very high

THE BUSINESS Software Alliance (BSA) and the Software Publishers Association (SPA) have published the latest figures on piracy—software theft—in the Middle East for 1995. This is part of world-wide study.

Regrettably, the highest levels of piracy were recorded in the Middle East, registering 79 percent. This means that only about 21 percent of the software used in the region is original. Worldwide, there had been a drop in the percentage of pirated software in use. In 1996, illegal software accounted for 43 percent of software in use, compared to 46 percent in 1995 and 49 percent in 1994.

Getting back to the Middle

Country	1995	1996	Loss (USD)
Saudi Arabia	77%	79%	32,500,000
UAE	88%	72%	6,630,000
Bahrain	92%	90%	4,450,000
Kuwait	91%	89%	10,270,000
Qatar	91%	89%	3,880,000
Oman	96%	95%	7,900,000
Egypt	84%	88%	18,120,000
Jordan	87%	83%	2,650,000
Lebanon	79%	73%	1,420,000
Morocco	82%	77%	6,750,000
Others	78%	73%	37,620,000
TOTAL	78%	74%	510,750,000

East, Oman was the country that was found to have the highest percentage of pirated software estimated at 95 percent. Bahrain was second with 90 percent illegal software. The

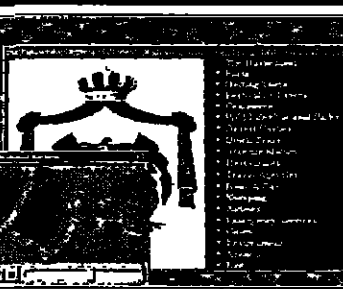
figure for the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was 72 percent, followed by Lebanon which recorded 73 percent. As a whole, piracy in the region was found to be 69 percent. ■

News update

CD-ROM on Jordan by the Royal Court

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Internet soon in Saudi Arabia

● Although the Internet has been readily available all over the Middle East for about two years, it has not been available to Saudi Arabian users; mainly due to fears of the 'explicit content' of the Internet.

However, it seems that Internet is finally going to arrive in Saudi Arabia, as stated by a report in *BYTE Middle East*.

The Saudi government is expected to apply 'filtration' and content monitoring techniques. It is anticipated that there will be hundreds of thousands of potential Internet users in Saudi Arabia.

Three main players are vying for the Internet Service Provider license. These are Al Alamiah, Al-Waseet—and Advanced Arabic Systems—owners and operators of the only BBS in Saudi Arabia, called Nassej.

The service will start in the cities of Riyadh, Jeddah and Dammam. Internet services in Saudi Arabia can be expected by next July.

INTERFACE BY ZEID NASSER

The piracy scare

JORDANIAN SOFTWARE developers seem to be losing on some of their enthusiasm to enter the region's market. Apparently, the problems of piracy are bigger threat than they had expected.

As a matter of fact, a developer of Islamic educational software, I spoke to, informed me that he received letters from pirates in the Gulf warning him that his company's software protection would be broken within days of launching the product in Gulf States!

In other words, pirates in the Middle East are making a point to boast about their illegal activities.

Of course, thanks to serious steps by large software publishers like Microsoft, Middle Eastern governments are implementing a crackdown on piracy, but still the figures speak louder than the anti-piracy actions, as shown by a recent report on the region showing that, at best, one fourth of software in use is legal.

Most Jordanian developers say that they are depending on companies and corporations to purchase their software. Such organizations use legal, original copies of software. But this direction in itself is limiting, as their is a massive potential market for end-user software in fields like entertainment, education and other household uses.

Anyway, as has been proven over the years, it takes time for piracy to be eradicated. Every year, the use of original software in the Middle East goes up by about 3 to 5 percent. For now, I don't know about you, but I think that's encouraging. For now, we should send a clear message to pirates out there: You are harming our software industry, and the possibility that it could be a source of national income as an export for Jordan in the future. Think about that.

* * * * *

Price sensitivity, lower quality?

JORDAN'S COMPUTER market is so price sensitive that, in many cases, users compromise on the quality of computer equipment for savings as low as 5 percent (That's just JD 50 in every thousand). For large computer companies, that represents leading brands, this is a major problem.

"We find that we under-price our systems nowadays, just to grab a customer," said a manager at one of Jordan's largest computer suppliers. "We are definitely losing money, but we hope to make it back in maintenance services and additional hardware."

In any case, the reason for the price war is simple: Too many small suppliers, are offering very low-price deals for computer hardware. What's more, the price of components fluctuates on a weekly basis.

For example, two of the main components in PCs that provide pricing flexibility are the multimedia kit (CD-ROM, sound blaster and speakers) and the modem. Taking a look at modems, you would be amazed to know that an internal 28.8 kbps unit costs computer suppliers as little as JD 110, and that's a figure which some consider even high!

Multimedia kits hover around the JD 170 price, on retail. These include 12 times speed CD-ROM units. However, you would also be surprised to know that several small suppliers offer them for as low as JD 120.

Do these varied prices, necessarily, mean varied quality? According to some hardware experts, not necessarily. Apparently, owing to the fixed standards in the industry, every piece of computer hardware is designed to comply with a minimum standard, and it will serve well.

However, when purchasing a complete PC system, it does make a difference, because performance and quality depend on how well these components are integrated together.

Here, it is important to remind users that buying from reputable, well-known suppliers, although costing a little bit extra, can save you a lot of future headaches. Balancing quality and price is important. Don't shop cheap. Shop smart. ■

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Brazil takes steps against sport's corruption

By Alex Johnson

THE RULING body of Brazilian soccer (a contradiction if ever there was one) pulled itself out of the pool of insanity in which it has swum for years and took decisive action last week against the corruption that chokes the domestic game. Reacting to the ugly refereeing scandal that saw one of its own senior officials trading favors for support in his congressional campaign, the CBF kicked Atletico Paranaense out of the game for a year and banned two senior officials for life.

After a two-week investigation, the CBF determined that the two officials, Paranaense President Mario Celso Petraglia and Ivens Mendes, the federation's former head of referees, "used the game to their own benefit."

Given the extensively documented reporting of TV Globo, which broke the story, that was a conclusion it didn't need even two minutes to reach. But still, the CBF proved that it isn't quite yet a punch line in waiting. It's more than about time that the CBF shook itself together. The absurdities of the country's domestic soccer have been well-chronicled here, and I won't rehash them. I've written more than enough about the crazy-squid scheduling of the meaningless local state leagues, the national leagues, the cups and the continental tournaments that forced the then-teenage Romario to play 108 games for Cruzeiro in the 12 months before he left for Holland to join PSV Eindhoven.

(Well, just one more. Just a few weeks ago, the newspaper *O Globo* set out to see if anyone understood the format of the Rio league. *O Globo* said it stopped asking after 15 players were unable to answer all four questions right. Most recently, Flamengo simply up and quit the Rio league after league officials rewrote the entire schedule late in the season to favor Vasco da Gama, to the significant detriment of Flamengo and Fluminense. That has combined with the usual jurisdictional squabbles, court challenges, petty

bribery, nepotism and general all-around insanity to make Brazilian domestic soccer a global laughingstock.)

Brazil's national team is the defending world champion, having won its unprecedented fourth World Cup three years ago. As ever, it turns out the best talent in the world, capable not only of beating any country on its day, but destroying it.

But Brazil will find it extraordinarily difficult to keep its title. There's just too much working against it.

Brazil is old; there's no way around it. It tried to integrate younger players into important roles in last year's Olympic Games.

That experiment failed, and the disappointment was so great that Brazil's players flew home after losing their semifinal, not even bothering to pick up their bronze medals. So now Romario is back in the team, as is the ageless goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel, and yes, that was Dunga and Marcio Santos and Aldair, all forgotten for the Olympics, you saw there against Italy in the Tournoi de France. By the time the World Cup final round rolls around next summer, well more than half the team will be into its thirties, some of them, moreover, those players who were considered the weak links of the '94 team.

Meanwhile, Romario, an ego with feet, is making noises about cooperating with Ronaldo, but early games pairing the two up front have been inconclusive. Even before it could manage only ties with France and slumping Italy in the Tournoi de France, it was clobbered by Norway—Norway!—in an exhibition. Romario co-existed warily—with Bebeto at the last World Cup only after it was made clear that he was the central striker in the lineup. The problem for Romario, and for Brazil, is that Romario no longer has the upper hand. In a battle for supremacy between Romario and Ronaldo, Romario loses. What happens then will help make or break the team.

Moreover, Brazil will suffer greatly from not having to qualify for next year's final round. Once the Copa America is over

this month, Brazil will not play another full competitive international match until it kicks off the World Cup in Paris next June. That's a long, long time to play only exhibitions.

Coach Mario Zagallo, back for a second time, has promised to open up Brazil's style from the defensive-oriented system that helped it win in 1994. Zagallo's no fool; he saw how Carlos Alberto Pereira lost his job even after winning the World Cup because the team wasn't exciting enough. Pereira took note of how Brazil had played wonderfully entertaining attacking soccer in previous World Cups and lost. He put some steel in the defense and midfield, withdrew a striker, played a less-wide-open game and won. But he didn't win "the right way," and so he was shown the door.

That presents Zagallo with a problem. He knows he must win, and he knows he must play soccer with flair. "Colombia and Argentina tried to turn the clock back at the 1994 World Cup and play a happier, free-flowing style, but without much success," he said recently. "They reminded me of 1982, when Brazil was voted the best pure footballing team at the World Cup but forgot to play to win and were knocked out in the second round. In 1994, Brazil did not put on a show, but we did play to win."

Zagallo says he accepts that. "Ideally, you must win and entertain." But that runs counter to a lot that he stands for. Zagallo is the father of modern, cinched-in Brazilian soccer, the man who put together the most defensive Brazilian squad ever, the 1974 World Cup team. Coaching an attacking team does not come easy to him, and he needs real, competitive games to adapt to the style. After this month, he will have none in which to teach his old dogs new tricks.

So circumstances and history are against Brazil's keeping the title—no country has repeated since Brazil itself in 1962. It's always a catastrophe in Brazil when the national team falls short in the World Cup, but only a temporary catastrophe. Far more ominous for the CBF is the pending retirement of Havelange. FIFA's ruler for a

quarter-century.

Havelange has protected the Brazilian soccer hierarchy from itself ever since he moved up from the federation to run FIFA, sometimes to his own dishonor. In 1993, for example, he banned the immortal Pele from the tournament draw for the 1994 World Cup because Pele was in a court dispute with the head of the CBF. That man was Ricardo Teixeira.

Teixeira, as it happens, is Havelange's son-in-law. Family ties and all that.

But Havelange will be gone in little more than a year, most likely to be replaced by his biggest critic, Lennart Johansson, who is certain not to give

quarter-century.

Havelange has protected the Brazilian soccer hierarchy from itself ever since he moved up from the federation to run FIFA, sometimes to his own dishonor. In 1993, for example, he banned the immortal Pele from the tournament draw for the 1994 World Cup because Pele was in a court dispute with the head of the CBF. That man was Ricardo Teixeira.

Teixeira, as it happens, is Havelange's son-in-law. Family ties and all that.

But Havelange will be gone in little more than a year, most likely to be replaced by his biggest critic, Lennart Johansson, who is certain not to give

quarter-century.

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Brazil's leaders the leeway Havelange did.

By this time next year, the men in charge of Brazilian soccer will be running a domestic league setup bereft of credibility and riven by decades of buffoonery and corruption. That system will be feeding a national team that is on its down side. And should the CBF turn to FIFA for help, it will find a bitter enemy at the top.

That reality seems to have awakened the Brazilian hierarchy like a bucket of cold water dumped on its head. The Paranaense suspension suggests that even the goofballs at the CBF are becoming dimly aware that they will have to take charge of things for themselves someday. The only question—and it is a very big question indeed—is whether, after so many years of Looney Tunes leadership, the administration of soccer in Brazil can even be saved at all. ■

LA Times-Washington Post News Service



Jordan vs. Palestine soccer match drew 0-0. The Jordanian National Team and the Palestinian National Team played in the Jericho stadium, last Friday, marking the first international soccer match in Palestine in 30 years.

Kuerten routs Bruguera to win French open

By Jennifer Frey

PARIS—Gustavo Kuerten politely wiped his feet on the first red-carpeted step of the victory platform here at Stade Roland Garros before he climbed up the podium in his clay-stained blue shoes.

There was a jaunt to his walk, an ebullience in his spirit, yet when Kuerten reached the top he still paused to bow to Bjorn Borg, the most decorated champion in French Open history, before accepting his own trophy Sunday afternoon.

Like a self suddenly invited to live in the castle, Kuerten had no idea how to act after he captured the French Open title with a shockingly decisive 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 victory over two-time champion Sergi Bruguera of Spain on Sunday afternoon.

At No. 66, Kuerten is the lowest-ranked player to win the French Open men's singles title and the first Brazilian man to win any Grand Slam singles title.

"I didn't expect this trophy, that's why I didn't believe that it could happen," said Kuerten, 20, whose rise to tennis prominence has captured the imagination of the French people—not to mention Brazilians—these past two weeks. "When I received the trophy from Borg, he was one of my big idols in tennis. ... It was the first time I really believed that I won."

With his mother, his brother, and his grandmother Olga, the

tennis expert, on hand to watch him, Kuerten dedicated this victory to his late father.

Aldo Kuerten suffered a heart attack while umpiring a boys tennis match when Gustavo was only 8 and died the next day.

The reference to his father's death brought a quaver to Kuerten's voice Sunday afternoon, and it marked a solemn moment in what was otherwise the most exuberant day of Kuerten's frequently exuberant life.

Giddy fans started an impromptu conga line through Roland Garros in the aftermath of Kuerten's triumph on Center Court, their many band led by five samba musicians and a group of revelers wildly waving a Brazilian flag.

When Kuerten heard their calls of "Guga! Guga!" (his nickname), the long-haired, unshaven new national hero leaped out a balcony with a bottle of champagne, but had trouble uncorking it. As during his charmingly awkward acceptance of the winner's challenge, and his charmingly awkward acceptance speech—Kuerten once again was operating on

match in any tour event, much less a Grand Slam final; a kid who caused a ruckus over his bright yellow-and-blue attire; a kid who had played a mere 40 career matches before he arrived here?

"I've never won a title," Kuerten said. "That's why I don't know how to open champagne."

Kuerten is the first player to win the first title of his career in a Grand Slam tournament since Mats Wilander did so here as an unseeded player in 1982.

Kuerten's victory already is considered by many tennis experts to be the most unexpected, and impressive, breakthrough for a male player since John McEnroe stormed to the semifinals of Wimbledon in 1977, when he was 18 years old and only a qualifier.

McEnroe went on to become one of the greatest men's players ever. What Kuerten's future holds is what everyone now wants to know.

McEnroe, an NBC commentator for Sunday's match, said on the air that he thinks Kuerten will be a player of the future, not a one-tournament wonder.

As wide open as the draw became, no one can question the difficulty of Kuerten's path to the final: He beat three former champions, a feat never previously accomplished on this red clay. In addition to No. 16 Bruguera, who won titles here in 1993 and 1994, Kuerten ousted 1995 champion Thomas Muster in the third round and beat defending champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the quarterfinals.

Kuerten totally outplayed Bruguera, winning in a mere 1 hour 51 minutes; his service broke just once and his nerves were unshaken by the high drama of the day. In a swirling wind that affected more than a few points, Kuerten lost just three service points in the first set and played his best when the match got tight in the second set.

Serving at 4-4, Kuerten fended off three break points before sealing the game with a forehand winner, then he broke Bruguera in the next game with a huge forehand (Kuerten's biggest weapon today) that

Bruguera could barely reach, let alone hit.

Riots during Tawjhi ex

Police arrests Syrian man behind triple murder



Continued on page 2

Legal lit

By William D. Montalbano

LONDON—A judge's verdict deciding the English trial of British mystery writer and criminologist Ian Robert Christie, already at hand for two British activists, looked like a blow to David and Helen, and not a battle with McDonald's.

Across 313 that David, Helen, and their son, James, combined starting legal action against McDonald's.

Originally expected to last a few weeks, the trial also pit the activists' case against the corporation's right to protect itself from libelous accusation.

David and Helen, who had been sued by McDonald's for libel, had been told that they had lost their case. But the judge's verdict, which found in favor of the activists, was a surprise.

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